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Faith-healing in America; Clinton has the touch

Rupert Cormwell
Phoenix, Arizona

The message, or rather the messages, may be different this time, subtly changed to suit the audience of the hour. But the messenger is not. The blue-and-gold seal ceremoniously affixed to the rostrum at every stop may read "President of the United States of America". But Bill Clinton - just as four years ago, just as always - is doing what he loves most and does best. Campaigning.

This of course is his last big tour (the constitution forbids more than two terms) but he still dives into ethnic diners to wolf down chicken with his aides, and still presses flesh for 15 minutes after each stump appearance. This barn-storming finale to his electoral career could be his first campaign for governor in Arkansas 18 years ago, or his bravura performance in New Hampshire in 1982 (brilliantly fictionalised in the novel *Primary Colors*). Clinton draws voltage from a crowd; he fuses its energy with his own.

The ruddy face with the close-coiffed silver hair beams from the furthest corner of the arena. No matter the meaningless gush of words, about "bridges to the 21st century" or the bubble of statistics about pre-qualification schemes for single mothers who want to set up a business. It is the cadence of the words which matters, not what they mean. Clinton's conduct of government may be abysmal, but as a campaigner he is mesmeric.

With five days to polling day, the President is having a fit - and why not? His own re-election next Tuesday seems a foregone conclusion. Everywhere his crowds are boisterous, not just because they're on the winning side, but because they are in communion with Bill Clinton, the same-time sinner made saint. "Oh God, You've got to believe it, I touched him," a girl gasped to her friend as she fought free of the throng around the President in the Denver Coliseum, more usually the home of cattle auctions and rodeos, but this evening site of a presidential "Meeting with the people of Colorado".

At each event, such tension



Shaken and stirred: President Clinton reaching out to give supporters the personal touch this week on the campaign trail in Minneapolis

Photograph: Win McNamee/Reuters

How fiction caught the true colours of the President

"I've seen him do it two million times now, but I couldn't tell you how he does it, the right-handed part of it - the strength, quality, duration of it - the rudiments of pressing the flesh... If he doesn't know you all that well, and you've just told him something important", something earnest

or emotional, he will lock in and honour you with a two-hander, his left hand overwhelming you with his wrist and forearm. He'll flash that famous misty look of his. And he will mean it."

... From the opening scene of *Primary Colors*, the novel about the 1992 election

campaign by Anonymous (later revealed as the *Newsweek* journalist Joe Klein). The narrator is describing an encounter with Governor Jack Stanton, the Clinton-esque candidate. The *New York Times* described it as "the best word-picture of the Clinton treatment ever put on paper".

As always Clinton plays his cards shamelessly. Aboard Air Force One on its 3,000-mile aerial *Odyssey* westward, this chameleon of politicians changes colours anew. Somewhere high above the prairie, shoes are replaced by cowboy

boots, and the drawing accent

Sharp suits and preposterous parroting

Very few MPs arouse in me such visceral hostility as does the Government's new "Exchequer Secretary" (when did that job get created?), young Philip Oppenheim. For years Phil has been described, by the desperate young ladies of the rapidly shrinking Young Conservatives, as the hottest piece of male toto in the Tory Party. He is sexier even than Brian Mawhinney.

With every visible skin surface covered in Perma-tan, blond hair swept back to try and disguise a bald spot whose eventual victory is certain and Philip Schofield teeth, Mr Oppenheim's sixth-form voice and Jemima Goldsmith accent have always got right up my nose. He reminds me of a junior doctor



DAVID AARONOVITCH

in a particularly unconvincing hospital soap, transmuted by a cheap cable company. So what I am about to say pains me deeply. For yesterday, on his debut appearance on the Treasury front bench, Oppenheim won. This confession of sharp suits, ideological vacuity and Thatcherite triumphalism managed to

look authentic when compared with some of the men opposite.

This was as much their fault as it was his. In July the slogan "New Labour, New Danger" was dropped into almost every junior ministerial speech, reply or press release. It drove everyone mad, not least because it was so pointless. Who, other than a catastrophic handful of fellow MPs, was going to hear such preposterous parroting? They would not be shown on television or reported in newspapers. Yet they managed to lower the standard of discourse from an already subterranean level. One began to wonder whether many Tories were not on some bizarre form of piece rate.

Now it's Labour's turn, with

their new hit, "Enough is Enough". Invented by some agency for the autumn campaign, this phrase was being tested to destruction by frontbench speakers, one of the allegedly brightest of whom, Alan Milburn (Darlington), was - like Oppenheim - making his debut.

With his thick hair slicked back à la Mandelson, Mr Milburn is the very model of a modern Labour general, and he rose to tell Kenneth Clarke as Gordon Brown had the day before, that Britain was ninth in something and eleventh in something else. And that therefore, "Enough is Enough"!

Barely five minutes had elapsed before the number four

O'Brien (Warwickshire North and another rising star) got up to ask about VAT, commanding that "Enough is Enough". Now I have met Mr O'Brien; he is a relatively thoughtful man, but here he was acting like some brain-dead backbencher. Why?

The answer became apparent later, during Prime Minister's Question Time. Tony Blair, crossing the dispatch box as his wont (I know at least one journalist who fantasises about taking the place of that box), had delivered his two forensic

about BSE - designed

to remind us all of last spring's

Tory posturing about forcing

Europe to eat our beef - and

was moving in for the killer bite: the one they always show on the

television news. "And that's why", he thundered, "the people of this country are saying

"Enough is Enough". As he repeated it, I felt my brain swell up inside my skull.

John Major - sensing the mood - was deep in synthetic dudgeon. The Labour leader was guilty of "irrelevant, juvenile sloganising", he retorted. Presumably "New Labour, New Danger" (with which the PM went along quite happily), was somehow relevant, adult and analytical - a proper slogan.

Up stood Mr John Austin Walker (Labour, Woolwich), a man lacking in what condom makers would call "supreme sensitivity". "Enough is Enough", he said. Hitting

significant shorts

Homeless help reaches out of London

Funding to help the "hard core" who sleep rough in the streets is to be extended to towns and cities outside London, the housing minister, David Curry, said yesterday.

Some £23m earmarked for

the Government's six-year-old Rough Sleepers' Initiative (RSI) will be used

to tackle the problem outside

the capital. The move follows

a survey by the homeless

charity Shelter commissioned by the Government.

Grants will be made to the

voluntary sectors in Bath,

Bournemouth, Cambridge,

Edinburgh, Leicester,

Manchester, Newcastle,

Nottingham, Oxford and

Sheffield. The RSI will also be

extended to London and a

new RSI zone will be created in Brighton.

However, the measures were criticised by Louise Casey, Shelter's director of housing. She said: "These resources will only tackle the visible side of Britain's homeless problem. In January we will have the worst housing crisis ever past coming into operation. This will mean people have less access to permanent

housing." James Casick

Antiques may escape gun Bill

Antique weapons are to be excluded from the Bill banning high-calibre handguns to be published today.

Background guidance to the Bill will enable collectors to keep antique weapons such as duelling pistols. The Home Office is considering appeals from shooters to allow First and Second World War guns to escape the ban.

Labour sources warned

last night that it may oppose

any widening of the

exemptions, but the move

may relieve some pressure

from the Government for

higher compensation from

the gun industry. Colin Brown

Guernsey yes to abortion

Guernsey's parliament yesterday voted to legalise

abortion - the last area in the

British Isles to do so.

A 1910 law that made

abortion punishable by life

imprisonment was thrown

out by 34 votes to 20 by the

States of Deliberation and

replaced by legislation that

allows a pregnancy to be

terminated up to the end of

the twelfth week, provided

two doctors approve.

Numerous amendments

were brought during the

lengthy and emotional

debate by pro-life politicians

attempting to stop the law

from being passed but all

were rejected or withdrawn.

Philip Jeane

Tank blows trains off course

Rail passengers at Tysley in the

West Midlands

discovered a new excuse in

the long litany of apologies

for tardiness. Their station

had, overnight, been partially

demolished by a tank.

The Warrior tank was

being transported on

Wednesday night from

Salisbury plain to its base at

Catterick in North Yorkshire.

However, as it went through

Birmingham, the turret of

the tank smashed into the

canopy of the station at

Tysley, leaving much of it

scattered on the track.

It was only on arrival at

Redmire where the tanks

were taken off the train that

it was discovered that "there

were small articles of wood

on the tank".

Rail bosses were then

alerted that what looked like

a bit of a statistician had

been found on the tank.

Patients must define death, doctors say

Patients should be encouraged to select their own definition of death, and confirm it in writing to be used by their GPs if necessary, American doctors have suggested.

The doctors, all specialists in intensive care and led by Dr David Powney at Pittsburgh University, say that medical progress and changing societal attitudes have confused the definition. And now brain death - widely accepted since the early 1980s as the ultimate definition of death - is being challenged.

In *The Lancet*, Dr Powney says that patients who have permanently lost their higher brain functions should be considered dead too, although their brain stem is intact and they can breathe on their own. Dr Powney says the criteria for entry to overcome their debt burden on pensions.

The report warns that France and Germany will have to borrow more - breaking the criteria for entry to a single currency - or raise taxes or cut pensions to meet the debt burden.

Pro-Europeans played down the report. Quentin Davies, vice-chairman of the European Movement, said: "It is nonsense to argue that Britain would have to pay for the big pension commitments of other EU countries if we joined a single currency." But the Tory Euro-sceptic David Shaw, MP for Dover, said that in a single currency, "there would be one balance sheet and we would be a part of that balance sheet".

John Redwood, leading Tory

and former Cabinet minister, said: "Joining a single currency and abolishing the pound means having a joint current account with our partners. Most Continental countries have made generous pension promises but have not saved any money to meet them. These figures should also be included in the reckoning ... we should ask how France and

Germany intend to pay all their pensioners in the future. We, after all, are saving for our retirements and are putting money aside to pay the bills."

The Tory Euro-sceptics believe it will enable the Government to opt out of a single currency in advance of the general election, following the pressure on Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to drop his opposition to Britain ruling itself out of joining the first wave into a single currency.

Some Tory Euro-sceptics said it would mean Britain would become liable for the debts of Germany, France and other partners if it joined a single currency. That was discounted by Tory members of the select committee, but they conceded it would mean higher interest rates in Britain.

Senior Shadow Cabinet colleagues who have been pressing for Labour to rule out joining in the first wave were convinced that their argument had been strengthened by the report. It came only hours after Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, distanced himself from the warning by Lord Healey, the former Chancellor, that a single currency would lead to riots in the streets.

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Murdoch's bitter vendetta pulls the plug on Britain's latest TV channel

Feud with rival mogul highlights the dangers of concentrating power in the hands of one man, writes Mathew Horsman

A bitter personal feud between two of the world's most powerful media figures means British television viewers will not now see an entirely new channel today.

Rupert Murdoch's fight with Ted Turner, the founder of CNN, and Time Warner, the entertainment juggernaut, shifted dramatically to Britain last night, when Mr Murdoch's satellite broadcaster BSkyB indefinitely postponed the UK launch of the Warner Channel originally scheduled for today.

The increasingly bitter and highly personal battle pits Mr Murdoch — conservative, crass, authoritarian and utterly ruthless — against Turner, a Democrat, husband of Hanoi Jane Fonda, and a man troubled by mood swings and bouts of depression. Their war of words has dominated media news in New York for weeks, and has widened to include the city's mayor, New York State's attorney-general and Gerald Levin, the publicity-shy head of Time Warner, the world's largest entertainment company, and the new owners of Turner Entertainment and CNN.

At risk are crucial distribution agreements that would allow Mr Murdoch's all-news channel to be broadcast in New York City. But the issue has been all but buried under a barrage of lawsuits, insults and sharp tactics. And now the war has gone international, causing some to fear a massive escalation in hostilities between two global giants, in markets far from the epicentre of Manhattan.

The move against the Warner Channel, which infuriated local programming staff in London, means the UK's 4 million satellite and cable TV viewers won't see the channel's vintage movies and TV series, Bugs Bunny cartoons, a Steven Spielberg-produced kids' show called *Animaniacs* and a Warner TV hit called *Pinky and the Brain* — all of which Warner had hoped would prove wildly popular in Britain.

The use of Mr Murdoch's 40 per cent-owned BSkyB as a foot-soldier in that war is sure to heighten concerns in the UK over his near-monopoly dominance of the pay-TV market.

BSkyB's control of the satellite market is so complete that broadcasters have no choice but to do distribution deals with the Murdoch-controlled company. Sky alone operates a subscription management system, based on so-called "smart cards," that allows satellite channels to be broadcast only to those households that have paid subscription.

Mr Murdoch's stranglehold on pay-TV has recently been the subject of press comment, including in *The Independent*, in anticipation of the launch of digital satellite television next year. There are growing concerns that his dominance will



Television drama: (Clockwise from top left) Warner Bros. cartoon character Bugs Bunny; Ted Turner and his wife Jane Fonda; New York's Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and his wife, Donna; and Rupert Murdoch with his wife, Anna, and their daughter, Elisabeth. Photographs: Ronald Grant Archive/Reuters/AP/PA

Mr Murdoch has already launched a suit against the company, and has enlisted the help not only of the Republican mayor of New York, Rudolph Giuliani, but even the Attorney-General's Office and, of course, his New York City newspaper, the *Post*. (Interesting, Mr Giuliani's wife, Donna, works for Mr Murdoch's New York flagship television station Fox Five.)

The City of New York obligingly sided with Mr Murdoch, who employs 1,400 at Fox News headquarters in the city. The municipal government even announced it would allow Fox News to run on one of the city's public access channels, which are provided by Time Warner under the terms of its licence.

Time Warner quickly won an injunction against the move, and promptly filed its own suit. In it, the City is accused of acting "essentially as Rupert Murdoch's latest political puppet".

The *Post*, Mr Murdoch's flagship US newspaper, has been running a steady stream of anti-Time Warner material, and has been virulent on the subject of Ted Turner, who last month likened Mr Murdoch to Hitler because he uses his newspapers to promote his own political and commercial agenda.

Mr Murdoch's Fox and Time Warner have each taken out full-page advertisements in the New York press, arguing their corners. Mr Murdoch even fired a plane to circle Yankee Stadium with an anti-Time Warner message. The dispute flared just as the New York Yankees were battling for the World Series against the Atlanta Braves, owned, of course, by none other than Ted Turner.

The use of his newspapers to promote his businesses will remind many of the way the *Sun* and the *Times*, particularly, have helped publicise Mr Murdoch's growing satellite TV businesses. More worryingly, many in the industry believe Mr Murdoch's control of more than 30 per cent of the national newspaper market has been the chief reason politicians from both leading parties have been unwilling to challenge the media baron on his pay-TV monopoly.

The indefinite delay of the Warner Channel came on the same day as the Independent Television Commission's invitation to apply for up to four "multiplex" licences for digital terrestrial television. Many now believe that Mr Murdoch's digital satellite plans will pre-empt efforts to get DTT off the ground.

The Warner Channel delay, while minor, could be a harbinger of things to come. Will broadcasters be able to win access to Mr Murdoch's huge distribution system on fair and open terms? Or will they be hostage to the needs of a huge and growing global media empire, run by a single-minded, at times impetuous man, used to getting his own way?

emerge intact into the digital age, thereby securing him a "gatekeeper" role" over British pay-TV's development.

The mixing of Mr Murdoch's US agenda with the commercial activities of BSkyB will be seen by many in the British television industry as further proof of his powerful market position.

A leading media analyst said: "If I were a shareholder in BSkyB, I'd be asking whether the best interests of the company were being considered, rather than the best interests of one owner."

Executives at BSkyB and at the Warner Channel in the UK declined to comment on the decision. In a statement, the companies said:

"The 1 November launch of WBTV — The Warner Channel on BSkyB has been delayed. Preparations continue for a launch at a later date."

Warner was meant to be one of several new channels being introduced this autumn on BSkyB's multi-channel satellite package. The US company has placed billboards around the country promoting the

1 November date. But in recent ads by BSkyB, extolling its new services, and in listings guides for satellite and cable channels, there has been no mention of Warner.

It was widely suggested last night that a resolution of Mr Murdoch's wrangles in the US would smooth the way for the Warner Channel launch. Mr Turner's CNN, which is now

part of Time Warner, has 70 million subscribers, while Fox News has just 17 million. Under the terms of the Time Warner/CNN merger, the combined group was required to accept a competing news service on its cable network. It chose Microsoft/NBC over Fox, despite what Mr Murdoch believes were iron-clad guarantees from Time Warner.

Women plan to sue hospital over smear test errors

Liz Hunt
Health Editor

Some women at high risk of cervical cancer have yet to be traced more than a year after errors in the smear-testing system at a Kent hospital were first uncovered. It emerged last night.

A spokeswoman for the Kent and Canterbury Hospital National Health Service

Trust said that some of the 300 women whose smear tests had been reviewed and found to show "high-grade" abnormal cells had moved from their area or changed their GPs, and left no forwarding address.

The vast majority have been contacted or come forward themselves and have been undergoing treatment at the hospital, but there are some we

have been unable to trace so far," she said.

The hospital is facing legal action by some women whose cervical smears were found to have been incorrectly read following the biggest ever revision of smears since the NHS testing programme began in 1987.

A total of 81,000 smears taken over a five-year period were reviewed: 1,800 patients had been wrongly told they

were in the clear, and of these one-sixth needed urgent treatment

because they showed high-grade abnormalities indicative of cancer, pre-cancerous changes, or serious infection. Two of the women underwent hysterectomies.

The hospital spokeswoman said that "up to six patients" were considering launching legal action over the mistake which came to light in October

1995 during a routine audit when an unacceptably high number of wrongly classified smears were identified.

A review of all smear tests conducted at the hospital since 1990 was ordered in February this year, and the smears were sent out for independent review to other centres around the country, including Brighton, Birmingham, and Manchester.

Dr Kate Neales, a consultant

gynaecologist at the trust, said yesterday that the results of the retesting programme revealed that fewer women than expected had needed treatment.

"When the mistake was first discovered we expected a certain percentage of the number of tests we were looking at to perhaps not be clear," Dr Neales said. "We thought it could be as many as 500, but in fact, now that the programme

of retesting has been completed, we found it was less than that and was probably not as many as 300. We cannot yet be sure how many were affected because some women may have chosen to be treated by another hospital."

Dr Neales added: "There were a couple of cases, one or two at the most, who needed extensive treatment. By that I mean a hysterectomy."

The retesting was completed in June and is now being evaluated by an expert.

The hospital said that no individual was to blame and that the reading of smear tests was an "inexact" science with an accepted margin of error of about 5 per cent.

Training and supervision procedures had been tightened up at the hospital following the mistake, she added.

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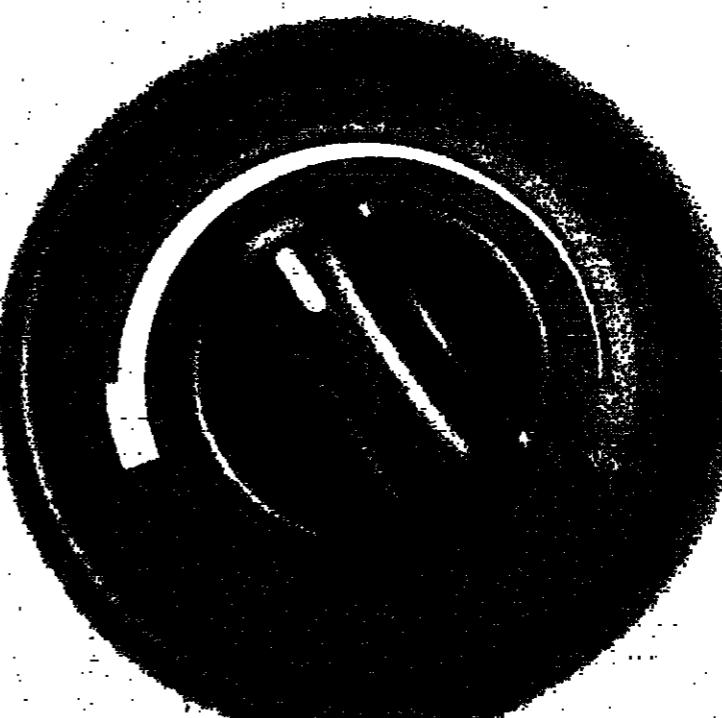
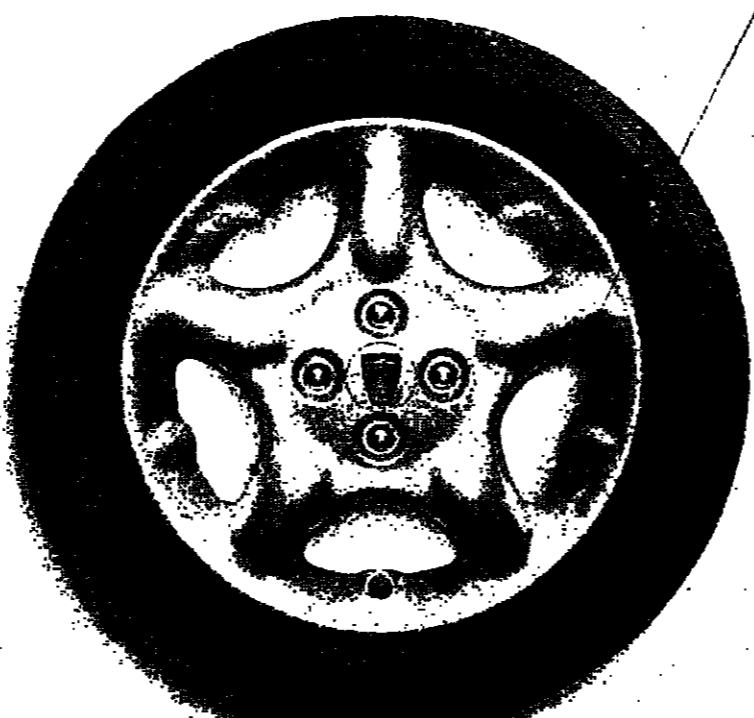
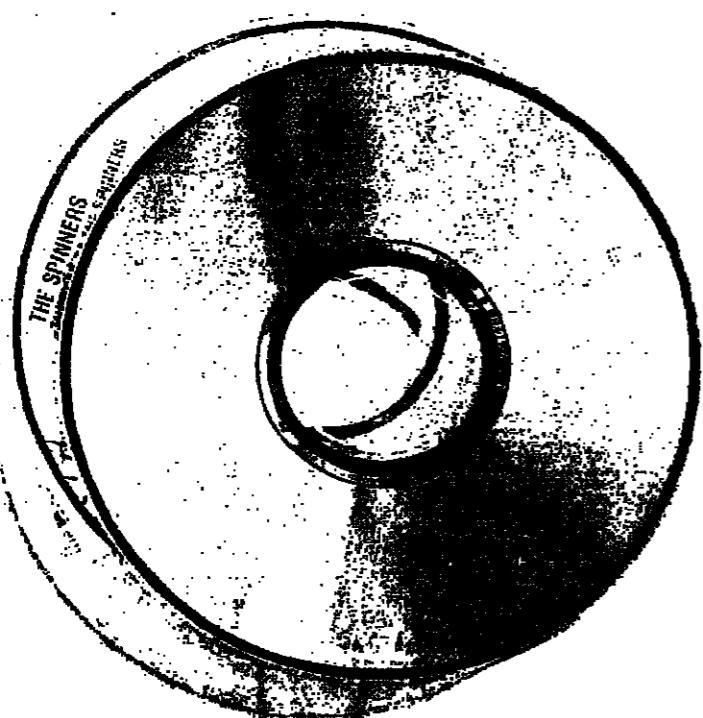
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news

Can this be the new Crystal Palace?

Dome will be world's biggest

Chris Blackhurst
Westminster Correspondent

The world's largest domed building will be constructed in Britain - if the Millennium Exhibition in London goes ahead as planned.

A huge, domed, tent-like structure will be erected at Greenwich, eclipsing most of Britain's best-known buildings. The size of two Wembley Stadiums or 13 Albert Halls, taller than Nelson's Column, the "Millennium Dome" will be even larger than the Georgia Dome in Atlanta and the Astrodome in Houston, America's two biggest sporting arenas.

On the same day as the contest to develop a new National Stadium at Wembley hotted up, the Millennium Exhibition organisers unveiled details of what could become, once the year 2000 has passed, the world's largest indoor sporting centre.

Who will own the giant complex by the Thames, once the exhibition has finished, is still open to question. Organisers said yesterday that British Gas owned the 130-acre site on the Greenwich Peninsula and that discussions were still taking place between the company and English Partnerships, the Government agency charged with regenerating old industrial sites, to clarify the issue.

They stressed that the dome was designed to be taken down if needs be. More than 50m high, it will be supported by cables attached to 12 masts, each 100m high.

In all, it will provide 1.1m sq ft of exhibition space - big enough to park 3,300 London buses.

The idea, said Barry Hartop, the government official now in charge of co-ordinating the project, was "to make a significant statement to the world." Mr Hartop likened it to the Sydney Opera House in scale and with its external piazza and walkways intended to provide a home for entertainers and performance artists, similar to the Pompidou Centre in Paris.

Details of what the dome will actually house remain sketchy. Inside, there will be 12 pavilions, each devoted to a single theme of British life from the past 1,000 years and looking to the future. The overall theme will be "time" with the dome intended to represent a giant clock-face.

Sitting alongside Mr Hartop, representatives from the designers, Imagination, and architects, the Richard Rogers Partnership, tripped off facts and figures for a project, that if it happens, will dwarf anything ever seen in Britain: 35,000 visitors per hour coming by Tube train; a capacity of 70,000; over 2,000 construction jobs; over 5,000 jobs in the exhibition proper; specially-designed boats shuttling visitors backwards and forwards along the Thames; a new Millennium pier; new roads; a strengthened river wall; parking for 500 coaches; 12.5m visitors during the Millennium year.

A one-day visit will not be sufficient, says Mr Hartop, who reckons people will require at least a day-and-a-half to do it justice.

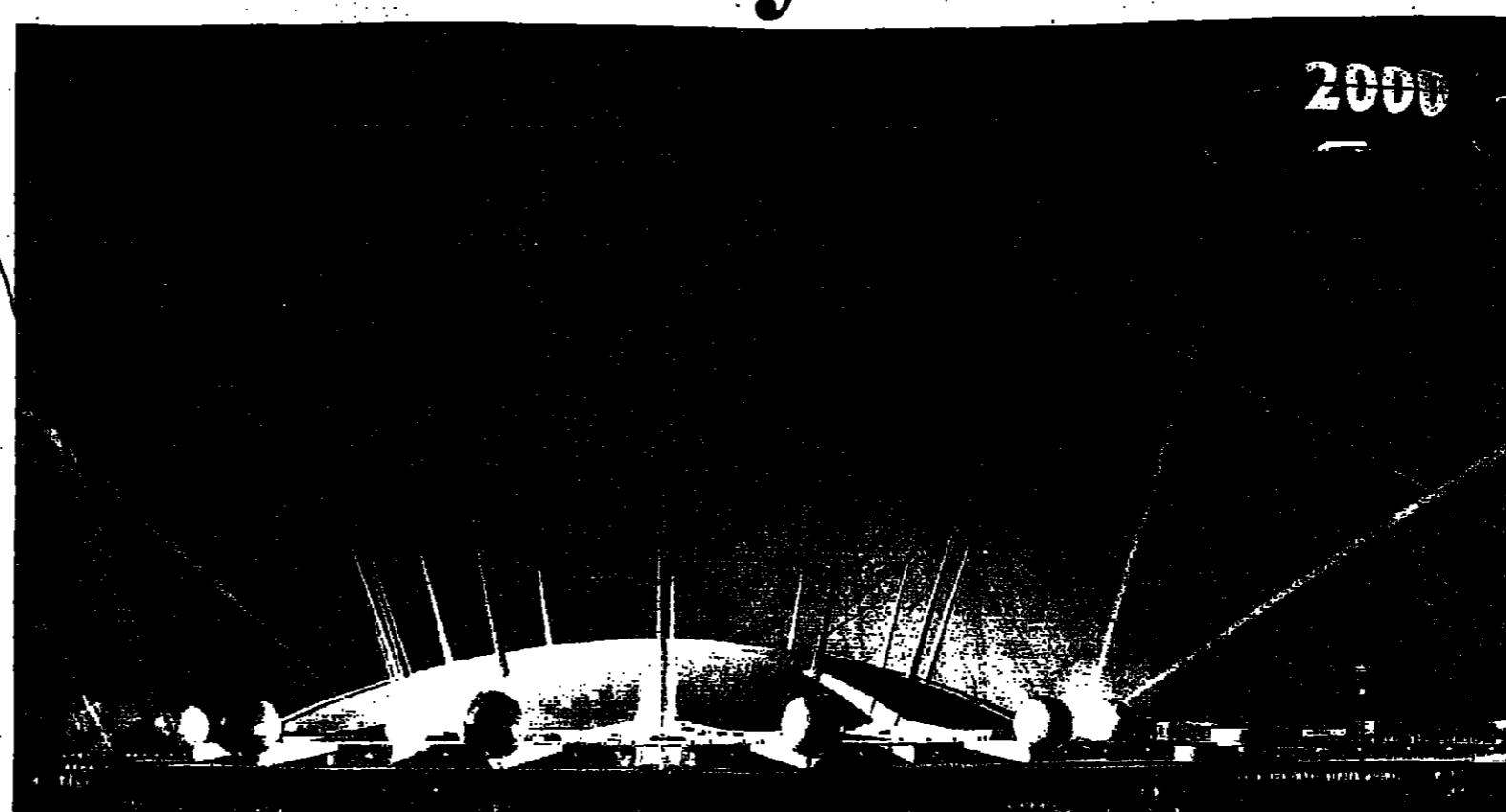
Questions remain, however, over the acceptability of the plans to the Greenwich public - the organisers plan to distribute 150,000 leaflets setting out their plans and to set up a permanent exhibition of scale models - and the final cost.

At present, the project has a budget of £350m, of which £200m is coming from National Lottery funds and £150m from is to be provided by private and corporate sponsorship.

But already, sources close to the project have been warning that this figure is too optimistic by far, and that a final cost of £800m or even £1bn looks more likely.

Early reaction from Greenwich was positive. Len Duvall, the leader of Greenwich Council, said: "At last it's landed and it's been worth the wait. It will be an international landmark for the future that will complement historic Greenwich and will mark a new renaissance for London in the 21st century."

Although the roof of the Dome will be made of the lat-



No place like Dome: A computer simulation of the centrepiece of developers' plans for the Greenwich Millennium Festival.

No... a great celebration needs better



JONATHAN GLANCEY

If you feel you have seen something like the Dome before, those born before 1945 most certainly have. Clearly inspired by Ralph Tubb's Dome of Discovery at the heart of the 1951 Festival of Britain, the Millennium Dome shows that even the most avant-garde architects and forward-thinking engineers can suffer from nostalgia.

A computer image of the Dome released yesterday adds to this sense of looking back: it depicts a 1930s-style airship flying over the Dome at night, the scene reminiscent of the sort of son et lumiere put on for the German *volk* by Albert Speer, Hitler's pet architect.

It also looks like the sort of building that Dan Dare, Space Pilot of the Future, expected to see through the windscreens of his Space Fleet interceptor as he flew over London circa 2000 in the pages of the 1950s boys' comic, the *Eagle*. The *Eagle* was launched a year before the Festival of Britain opened.

Although the roof of the Dome will be made of the lat-

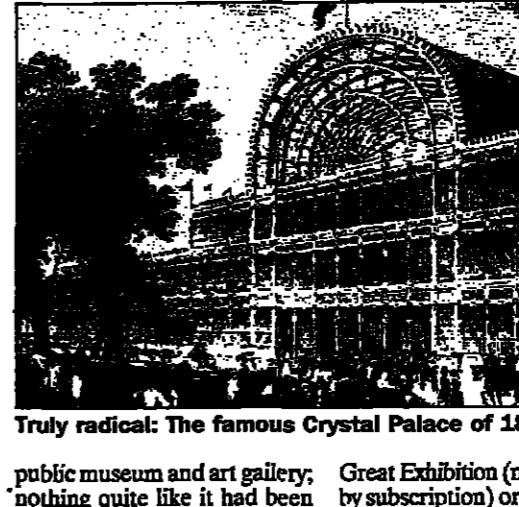
truly radical in its day and though we would be unwise to adopt its form, we would benefit greatly from its spirit.

The Millennium Dome is a logical development of contemporary architecture, yet its style is rooted in buildings from aircraft hangars and exhibition halls to sports stadia that spell '20th century' - and not the future - in large letters.

Perhaps it is difficult for architects and designers to be ahead of their time, and yet we need a building - assuming that we want the Festival to go ahead - that will lead us somehow into the future.

That building must be, in many ways, a shot in the dark and not just a large-scale extension of what we can already do. Quite simply, the Millennium Dome gives off the wrong signals: it is already yesterday's architecture.

The Rogers team's ability to design a futuristic form of architecture is not in question: the Pompidou Centre (1971-77) revolutionised our idea of the



Truly radical: The famous Crystal Palace of 1851.

public museum and art gallery; nothing quite like it had been seen before. We need that level of imagination.

In 1851 Britain looked forward; it did so again in 1951. Fifty years on we should be doing so again.

One of the reasons the design might be a little conservative is that it needs to appeal to corporate sponsors who will want to back a safe bet. Unlike the

Pipe dream, page 14

Clare Garner

Asda, the supermarket known for its socialising has abandoned the singles market in favour of pensioners.

Over 60-year-olds are invited to get on down to their local store next week and groove to Glenn Miller and company as they snap up bargain groceries.

Just as lonely hearts used to pace up and down Asda's shopping aisles looking for love, so the elderly can now bob as they shop and mingle to the jingles of yesteryear.

All 208 stores across the country are mixing their own compilations of music from Frank Sinatra, Cole Porter and Gershwin to "a big band of the Forties" called Geraldito's.

Billed as "OAP Happy Hours", the sessions will run from 9am to 11am next Monday and Wednesday. It will be a case of ID at the checkout rather than the door; any customer with a pension book will be entitled to a 10 per cent discount on their final bill.

"Get out those pension books, get on your glad rags and get down to your local Asda for a fantastic 10 per cent off your shopping bill," said a spokeswoman for Asda.

"Not only will pensioners get the lowest-priced shop in town, they can have a party too with a free cuppa and an old-fashioned knees-up.

"Shopping to the nostalgic music of the Twenties and the dance bands of the Forties, OAPs will be entitled to 10 per cent off all purchases, except cigarettes and lottery tickets, on presentation of their pension book. So whether it's restocking the cupboards buying Christmas gifts for family and friends, or just visiting for a chat and some entertainment, there's something for everyone."

Allan Leighton, who took over from Archie Norman as chief executive in August, said: "We want to provide some fun for our 1 million older customers and, more importantly, give them some welcome help with their Christmas shopping."

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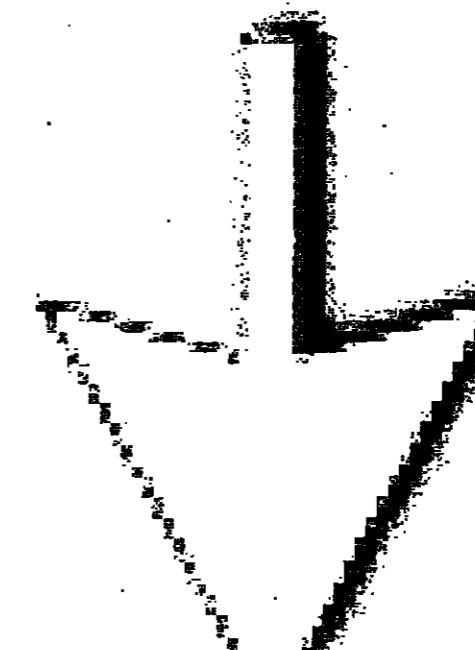
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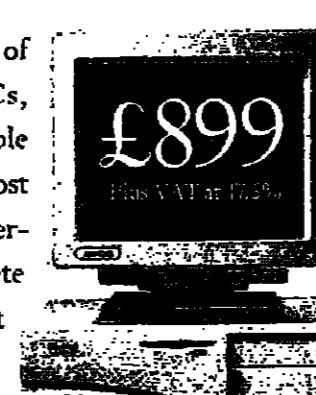
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news



Cattle may go hungry

Many farmers face the choice of financial ruin or letting thousands of cattle go hungry this winter, because of the failure of the Government's culling scheme to eradicate BSE, writes Charles Arthur.

The Government estimates that 400,000 cattle aged over 30 months – and so destined solely for culling – are being kept around the country. Each costs up to £10 to feed each week, and is eating into stocks.

Unsold and uncilled cows have used up more feed than forecast, which will force farmers to restock early. But in many cases, they will not have received the payments for the culled animals, as that can take two and a half months to arrive.

New-style CJD claims second victim in France

Susan Emmett
and Charles Arthur

French scientists say they have found a second case of the "new variant" of the fatal Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), raising the possibility that BSE-infected cattle have entered the food chain there. In a letter to tomorrow's edition of the *The Lancet*, a team of five scientists from Lyons describe a 52-year-old French

woman who died in October 1995, suffering features of the "new variant" of CJD which is increasingly strongly linked to exposure to the agent which causes BSE in cattle. She was confused and unable to stand but scanning revealed regular brainwaves – symptoms typical of the "new variant". She also had a genetic configuration, common to 38 per cent of the population but common so far to every "new variant" victim.

BSE has been found in France, with 10 cases reported

since 1993, there have been 12 confirmed cases of the "new variant" in the UK. In March, the Government said that the most likely explanation was exposure to BSE, and since then a growing number of experiments have backed this hypothesis. The result was a ban on British beef exports to the rest of Europe, on the basis of consumer protection.

The French scientists say an

this year, and a total of 23 since 1990. But some observers have said that the extent of BSE is being covered up in that country.

If the new variant of CJD is definitely linked to BSE, and there are more cases in France, it could devastate the farm economy in the same way as it has in the UK, where the £500m beef export industry has almost been destroyed by the EU ban on beef and beef products.

The French scientists say an

examination of the woman's brain after her death showed the plaques and spongy holes which are typical of the new form of disease. If it is confirmed, she would be the second reported case of the disease in France. The first was a 26-year-old male mechanic, also from Lyons, who had never been to the UK and had no contact with cattle.

If the case is confirmed, the victim would be the oldest so far reported. Currently, all

are under 42, though one is suspected in a 51-year-old Briton. The scientists did not provide any travel or dietary details about the woman, but noted that in 1994 she had a brain operation in which she received some human tissue.

Such operations have previously caused CJD, by passing it on from infected surgical instruments, but the "new variant" was unknown before this year, and CJD transmitted in this way

usually shows up more quickly. Martin Zeidler, research registrar at the CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh, "At the moment you can't say this is a new variant like the BSE-related ones in Britain. It is not impossible that this lady's illness could be related to the graft."

Another report in *The Lancet* describes a 66-year-old German man who regularly ate animal feed – blamed in the UK for spreading the BSE epidemic of

the man developed CJD. However, the symptoms were those of "classic" or "sporadic" CJD, which has never been linked to BSE, and is found all over the world, including countries which have never reported BSE. French veterinary authorities have requested the shutdown of the Hard Rock Café in Paris after the discovery of 300kg (660lbs) of banned British beef during a routine inspection of the kitchens.

Ministers crush Ulster's hopes on beef

Katherine Butler
Brussels

Thirteen of the fifteen European Union governments have said that they are ready to explore easing the ban on beef exports from Northern Ireland. But the Government is so split on the issue that it has failed to open negotiations with Brussels, despite mounting anger from Ulster farmers whose export trade has been decimated by the embargo.

A protracted Cabinet row could jeopardise John Major's wafer-thin parliamentary majority if the nine Ulster Unionist MPs, who have strong support in mainly Protestant farming constituencies, decide to vote against the Government.

In recent days, the Irish EU presidency has been informed by every capital except Bonn that they could support lifting the ban for certified herds in Northern Ireland provided a slaughter of 1,600 high-risk cattle is carried out in the province. So desperate are the farmers that they have offered to finance the cull themselves.

Ivan Yates, the Irish agriculture minister, confirmed he had been canvassing the idea. "I have to say that a majority of states were sympathetic to some solution that would limit animal movements between Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom," he said.

Diplomatic sources said that even the Germans did not rule out the concession and were open to discussing it, but only if Whitehall comes forward with a blueprint for meeting the veterinary and health conditions.

The Northern Ireland Office has been lobbying the Government to seek separate treatment on the basis that Ulster would pass the EU test on herds certified free of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) almost automatically. It is BSE that is costing the Republic £500,000 a week in border patrols.

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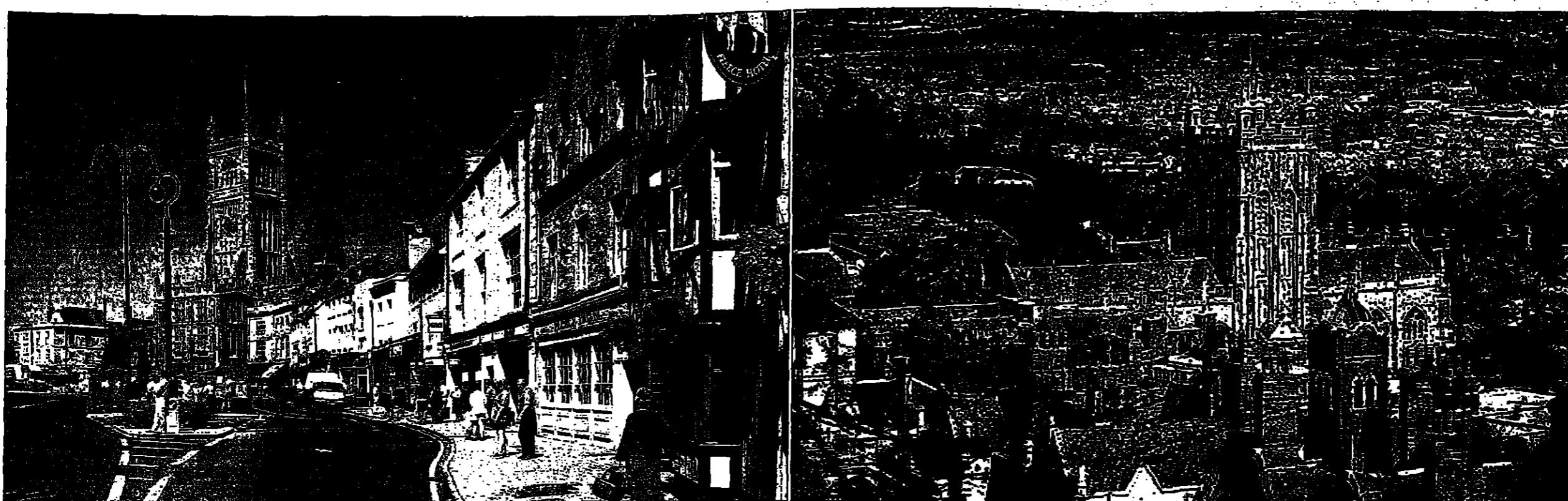
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news



National heritage: The old market towns of Cirencester, left, in Gloucestershire and Great Malvern in Hereford and Worcester are among those joining forces to combat the advance of the out-of-town superstores

There's still time to stop the life being sucked out of the loveliest small towns in Britain

Nicholas Schoon
Environment Correspondent

The small market towns of England have started clubbing together to stop new out-of-town and edge-of-town superstores from sucking the shoppers, trade and life out of them.

Seven local councils have decided to swap information and share experience and research on the threat to the historic centres, with their street markets that go back to medieval times or even earlier. They say that recent changes in planning guidance from the

Department of the Environment give no guarantee that out-of-town developments will be halted in future. Some of the towns have granted planning permissions for superstores that have not yet been built – and they are now regretting it.

Britain's big and medium-

sized towns now all already have out-of-town superstores, and the big chains have moved on to smaller fry to complete their coverage. "We're concerned that they are coming to places like Cirencester," said Nigel Howells, chief executive of Cotswold District Council,

which has led the fight back. The number of shoppers in the town's 910-year-old market has fallen and some long-established stallholders have quit. Five shops stand empty in Dyer Street, in the heart of the Gloucestershire town which has a population of 17,000.

"We've had to cut the stall rents once, and now the market traders are asking us to cut them again," Cirencester's town clerk, David Durbin, said. "It used to be a job to walk through the crowds on market days, but now it's far too easy." He and the district council say that the damage has been done by three superstores built on the town's dual carriageway bypass.

The Government has been worried enough to commission research from the chartered surveyors Hillier Parker into the damage done to smaller market towns. Russell Schiller, one of the consultants involved, said that unlike bigger towns, the smaller ones still had a large proportion of food retailers – butchers, bakers and so forth – who competed directly with the supermarkets. So when a superstore was built and started to pull customers away from the centre, the damage was all the greater.

Ross Davies, director of Oxford University's Institute of Retail Management, said that the towns' fears were justified. "As they near saturation point, the supermarket chains are now moving in on these smaller communities ... these are genuine concerns."

"They're also going into retailing overseas, and developing smaller stores in city centres."

"The supermarket chains have argued that they may be helping the smaller towns by building in or next to them."

That, they say, can stop local residents driving to larger towns nearby which already have superstores. If they stay in the area to do their major grocery shopping, they may also be inclined to do other buying there, too.

Keith Vaz, Labour's planning spokesman, said: "We will support these small towns all the way – we are ahead of the town centre."

Heritage versus the hard sell: Towns on the edge

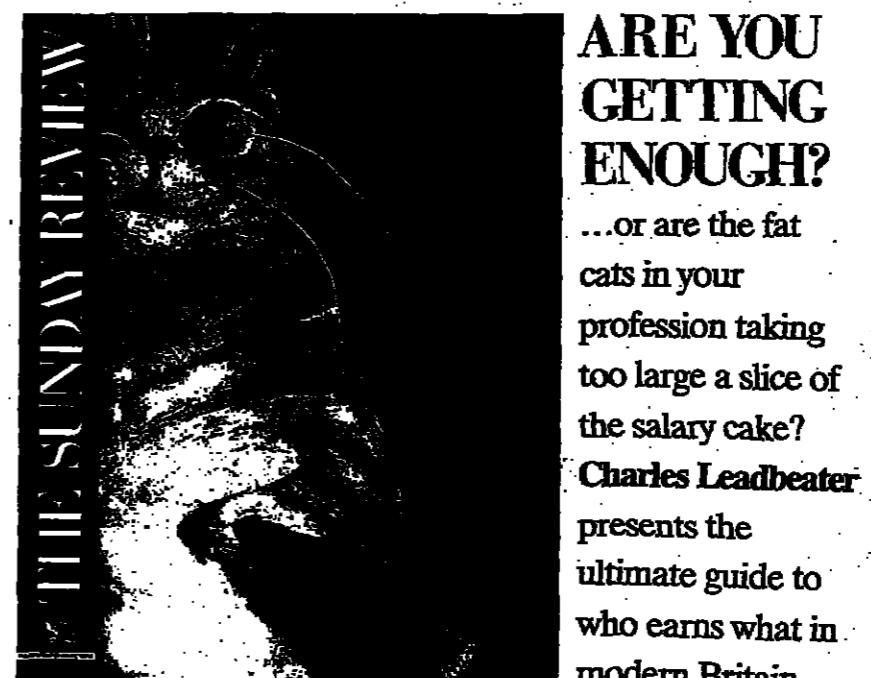
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IN THIS WEEKEND'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



ARE YOU GETTING ENOUGH?

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In Italy, nothing sells newspapers so infallibly as stories about the ailing Pope. Andrew Gumbel explores the strange world of the Papal paparazzi

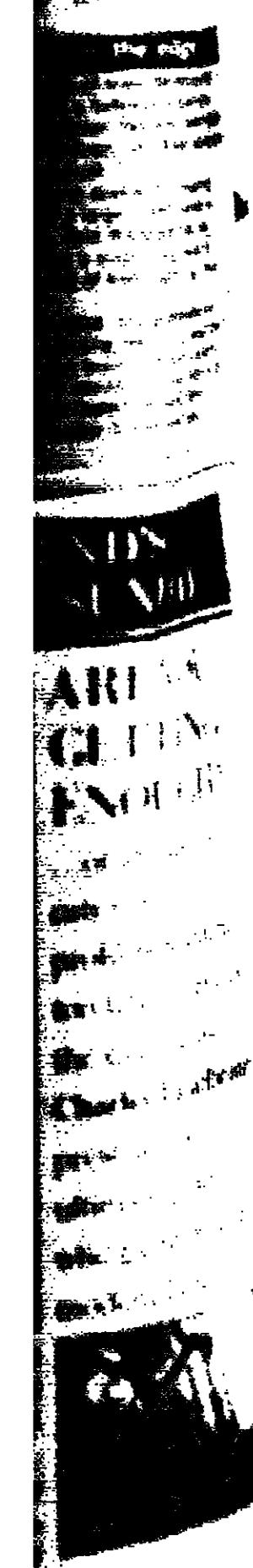
Plus: pop, politics, and posing. Nicholas Barber reports on the latest obsession of Damon, Liam, Noel and the rest of the Britpop aristocracy

and in real life

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news

Police chief heading for a brief encounter



Law man: Ray White, new president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, wants to expand DNA sampling and video interviews in court

Photograph: Rob Stratton

Jason Bennetto hears top officer's plan to curb aggressive barristers

Police chiefs are to campaign for new laws to restrict lawyers from aggressively cross examining witnesses.

They will also be pressing the Government to introduce a major expansion of DNA sampling and will be promoting greater use of video interviews of witnesses and defendants in court.

Ray White, the Chief Constable of Dyfed-Powys, and the new president of the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo), revealed some of the main aims of forces in England and Wales for 1997 in an interview with *The Independent*.

Mr White takes over one of the most powerful jobs in policing at a time when chief constables have the ear of both the Tories and Labour. In the run up to the election Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and his shadow, Jack Straw, have been falling over themselves to take up issues raised by police chiefs, be it the right to silence, CS sprays, or a national crime squad.

They know that law and order will be an important election issue and that the backing of the police is vital. It is therefore an ideal time to push and promote ideas and aims of the police.

One of Acpo's priorities in 1997 will be to improve conditions for witnesses. Mr White believes a new law is needed to restrict lawyers' ability to question witnesses in an aggressive or abusive manner. The police would like a new set of rules that specify how far barristers can go.

They believe this will help encourage witnesses and defendants to testify at trials. However there will be concerns that if cross examinations are restricted then people who are lying could escape detection.

Mr White said: "Barristers are becoming increasingly more intimidating and cross-examine innocent witnesses in a way the police would never be allowed to."

"The rules of conducting the cases should be changed so that they are not as draconian as they are at the moment. I would like a set of rules that respects cross-examination in a similar way to how the police have to deal with suspects."

The call follows a series of high-profile court cases. In September a barrister was criticised by a judge for claiming that a dental nurse terrified by a stalker liked the attention of men and had behaved like a "queen bee that dresses to kill".

Mr White also wants to extend the use of police video tape recordings of suspects and witnesses and to use this as standard evidence in court. He believes this will be far more convincing and transparent to

a jury than reading out a statement from a notebook or an audio tape.

"We ought to be fully moving into the video age," he said.

The police will also be pressing for better conditions in courts for witnesses, such as separate rooms and faster court procedures to limit the time taken for a case to reach court.

Mr White, 56, took over as boss at Dyfed-Powys seven years ago. His force area covers about two-thirds of Wales which has seen crime cut by 32 per cent over the last three years and the detection rate rise to an enviable 57 per cent.

Born and brought up in the Isle of Wight, the son of a builder in a family of five, his ambition to join the police started at the age of 14. Five years later, ignoring the advice of his school to go to university, he joined Hampshire police. "There was no other choice for me," he said.

Married with two grown-up sons – one a policeman – and a keen rugby supporter, colleagues say he "lives and breathes policing 24 hours a day". He considers himself

'He takes a most powerful police job when chief constables have the ear of Tories and Labour'

firmly conservative over issues such as drugs.

In the next year he intends to promote police successes and argued "there's too much gloom and doom about crime".

Mr White questioned the repeated assertions by the Tories that they have boosted the numbers of bobbies on the beat. He said: "During the lifetime of this government there's been substantial increase in police manpower but most of these increases took place in the early years and this has slowed down significantly in the last 10 years. The potential to improve the service will require more resources to be made available."

Another of Acpo's campaigns for the forthcoming year is for a new law to allow the police to take DNA samples from prisoners already convicted of crimes involving violence, sex or burglary as they are released. The Government has pledged to do this for sex offenders, although a proposed bill now appears to have been shelved.

"We want to build up a comprehensive DNA database. It will aid detection of serious crimes and help eliminate suspects," he said.

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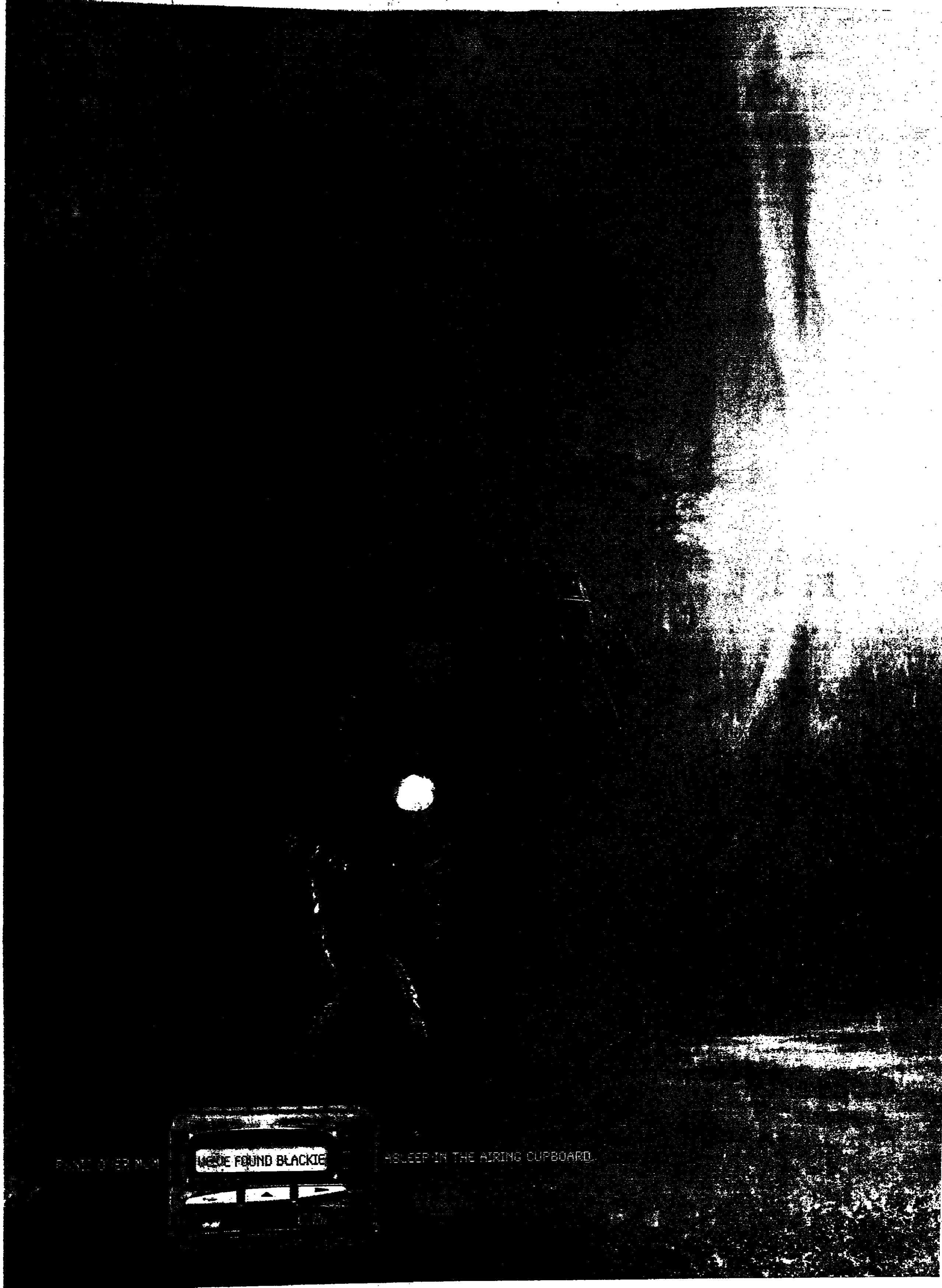
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THE INDEPENDENT
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news



Stone of remembrance: Anish Kapoor with his work at the St John's Wood Liberal Synagogue in north-west London

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Reflections of a memorial to the Holocaust

David Lister
Arts News Editor

Deep black stone, concave shaped, with a polished interior that reflects the viewer upside down; this is the Holocaust memorial sculpted over two years by former Turner Prize winner, Anish Kapoor.

The memorial, in the foyer of St John's Wood Liberal Synagogue in London, will be dedicated in 10 days' time, on Remembrance Sunday, in a service attended by the Israeli, German and Austrian ambassadors.

But behind the finished work lie eight years of debate and soul-searching over the form of a memorial to commemorate the dead and have a message for future generations.

The synagogue's shortlist for the £25,000 commission resembled a shortlist for the Turner prize itself, with the final choice between two former winners, Kapoor and Anthony Gormley. Gormley's proposed sculpture, involving a pair of hands, was deemed too figurative, compared with Kapoor's abstract and elemental work.

For both the rabbi, David Goldberg, and the 42-year-old artist - himself half Jewish - the journey towards a fitting memorial was a painful one.

Rabbi Goldberg said: "It

took a long and very, very painful time. Holocaust survivors at the synagogue felt no memorial could be adequate, no artistic representation could represent the horror they had been through. But teachers here wanted to teach the future generations."

Kapoor was putting the finishing touches to his piece yesterday. The memorial has been sculpted from a block of black limestone from Kilkenny and has been hollowed out to create an empty space. For the first time, in his work, Kapoor has polished the interior to make it reflective.

"Any memory can only be a token," he says. "It must not become an icon, but should prompt remembrance both for the survivors and succeeding generations. Stones are dumb, yet they can mark a place where remembrance can occur."

"It was a difficult commission. What do I know about the Holocaust? I'm a different generation, a different kind of Jew [born in Bombay, he is on his mother's side the 15th generation of an Iraqi Jewish family] but it is my history, and is my

"One can't give form to that public grief. It always turns into sentimentality. Grief is private. In a sense, grief is deeply lonely."

Old breast cancer treatments are best

Liz Hunt
Health Editor

A 100-year-old treatment for breast cancer increases long-term survival for some pre-menopausal women with the disease, according to new research which suggests that doctors and patients may want to reconsider this outmoded therapy.

Scientists have shown that switching off the ovaries in younger women who have early (operable) breast cancer can save substantially more lives than if they are left functioning.

The finding adds to the growing evidence that hormonal manipulation of early breast cancer may be effective in pre-menopausal women. Until recently, the focus has been on chemotherapy following surgical removal of the tumour in younger women, and hormone treatment was believed to be much less effective than in post-menopausal women.

However, scientists have found that for every 100 pre-menopausal women with cancer that had not spread beyond the breast and whose ovaries are stopped functioning (known as ablation) by surgery or radiotherapy, an extra six would be alive 15 years later compared with those whose ovaries are left untouched.

In women whose disease had spread to the lymph glands

there were an extra 12 survivors per 100 treated in the ovarian ablation group over 15 years.

Dr Mike Clarke, a senior scientist at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's clinical trials service unit in Oxford, who led the study, said yesterday that it was the first "clear evidence" that ovarian ablation works.

The researchers analysed the results of more than 2,000 women under 50 with operable breast cancer. According to the report in tomorrow's issue of *The Lancet*, more than 32 per cent of women who underwent ablation were alive 15 years after treatment compared with 46 per cent of those who did not undergo the treatment.

Dr Clarke said the technique was not in routine use and the Department of Health was unable to say how many women with breast cancer undergo ablation each year, but it was not widespread.

Further research is needed to determine if ovarian ablation is of value used in conjunction with chemotherapy or radiotherapy, or prolonged use of anti-oestrogen drugs such as tamoxifen. Dr Clarke said: "It is important to obtain this new information ... Meanwhile we can say with certainty that where adjuvant therapy for early breast cancer is not routinely used, the value of ablation following breast surgery is substantial and persistent."

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ADVERTISMENT APPEAL FOR THE CHILDREN OF BOSNIA Can you think of a better gift to send someone?

Disinfectant, nappies, washing materials - not the first things to spring to mind when you think about buying presents. But for mothers in Bosnia who have almost nothing left with which to care for their children, these basic essentials mean the world. And they can be found in each baby box sent with a donation in Britain to a despairing mother in Bosnia, via British charity Feed the Children.

As peace in Bosnia is trum- peted in the corridors of power, a young mother sheltering in a tractor cabin in north-west Bosnia knows what the really important issue is tonight: how to keep her shivering and vulnerable toddler safe from disease and infection in appalling conditions and biting cold.

She has been living on the edge of life since October, when she was forced to flee her home in Velika Kladusa - with only five minutes to pack a carrier bag - and trudge with 22,000 other people along five kilometres of road in Klupjensko valley.

She is one of 14,000 mothers in Bosnia and Croatia who have received baby boxes full of the basic essentials they need to help protect their children from the filthy conditions in which they are surviving: clean nappies and baby cream to soothe burning nappy rash, soap to wash urine-soaked babygros and dirty nappies, antiseptic for cuts, disinfectant for the muddy floors of their shelters...



Children in Bosnia and Croatia have suffered enough. You can help them recover.

From me to you and your child

Inside each box, packed by volunteers at Feed the Children's aid supply centre in Reading, is a message from the person who made it possible. For the exhausted, often traumatised woman who receives it, it is a potent sign that somewhere, somebody is thinking of her, and her efforts to protect her child.

"It's like a voice breaking through the isolation and hopelessness surrounding these mothers and children, saying 'we know how hard it is for you, we care what happens to

you,'" explains Gaynor Jones, Volunteer Co-ordinator at Feed the Children. "They take it very personally."

So do the individuals who take up Feed the Children's invitation to send a message along with their £30 donation.

"Seeing those mothers in

Bosnia on the television, clinging to their children for dear

life in appalling conditions,

I wanted to do more than

send a donation," says Karin Weatherup, who has sent a baby box. "I wanted to send a message. I wanted to say to the mother opening the box, 'You're doing an amazing job, and my family think about you every night'. Feed the Children enabled me to do that, for which I'm very grateful."

Julie Griffin was drawn to the idea of sending a baby box to Bosnia for the same reason.

"I just wanted to send some

love with all the practical

things in a baby box. It was that

personal involvement which

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news

Heritage shareout: Future assured for Kennet and Avon canal but Birmingham and Liverpool orchestras may not get funds

£25m grant unlocks historic waterway

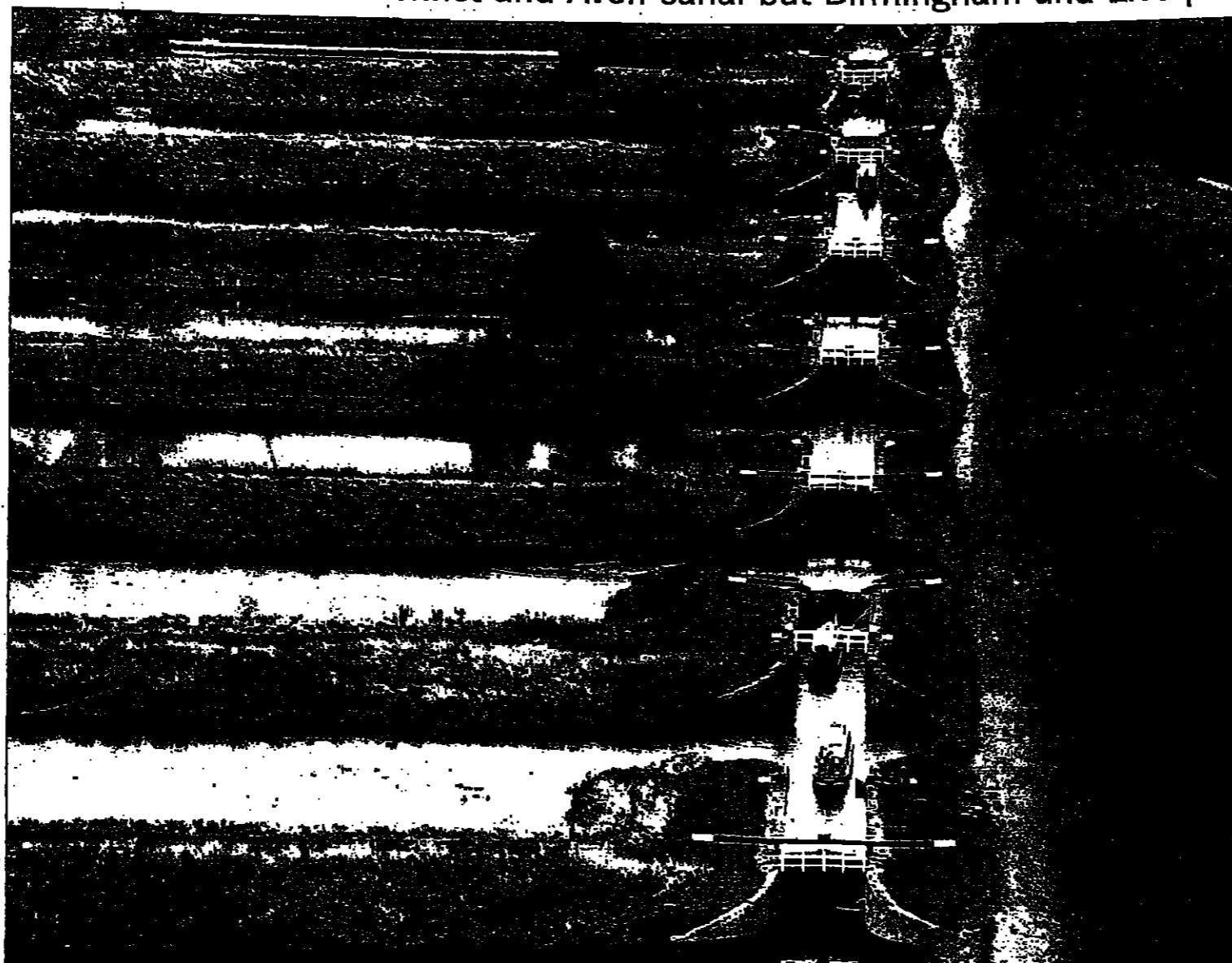
Nicholas Schoon
Environment Correspondent

The Heritage Lottery Fund announced its largest award to date yesterday, with a £25m grant to complete the restoration of the Kennet and Avon Canal.

The 87-mile long canal crosses the widest part of England, linking the Bristol and English channels via the rivers Thames, Kennet and Avon. Opened in 1810, it was one of the greatest engineering achievements of the early industrial revolution. Designed and engineered by John Rennie, it includes two magnificent aqueducts at Dundas and Avoncliff, and the famous flight of 29 locks which take it more than 200 feet up a hill at Devizes. But within a few decades the Great Western Railway, which runs parallel to it, opened and the canal's decline began.

Most of the money will be spent on major engineering works, with nearly £10m devoted to strengthening and underpinning the earthen and clay embankments which carry large lengths of the canal above ground level. Nearly £8m will be spent on dredging, relining of the canal sides and refurbishing locks.

"We need to do some serious preventative engineering, to make sure the canal survives another 200 years," said Simon Salem, marketing director of British Waterways which has responsibility for the structure.



Rennie's marvel: The Caen Hill locks in Wiltshire, by which the Kennet and Avon Canal climbs 200 feet uphill. Photograph: John Lawrence

PHOTOGRAPH: MAX FORSYTHE



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Arts lose out on lottery millions

David Lister
Arts News Editor

Some of Britain's best-known arts organisations may not now receive millions of pounds worth of promised lottery money.

In a potentially serious embarrassment for the Government it now looks as if some of the "good causes" that have been publicly rewarded with lottery funds may not receive the full awards and may possibly not receive any money at all.

The organisations include Sir Simon Rattle's City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society, the Salisbury Playhouse, Cambridge Arts Theatre and Bolton Octagon, the Spaceman art gallery in Exeter and Yorkshire Dance Centre in Leeds.

These and others were given lottery awards by the Arts Council after providing business and artistic plans showing that they were solvent, efficient and able to mount a certain number of concerts, productions or exhibitions, and would be able to pay staff to supervise their rebuilding projects.

But now several have warned the Arts Council that they may not be able to fulfil all these criteria if they do not receive an increase in their annual revenue grant. Published government projections are for a £3m cut in funds for the Arts Council following the Budget later this month. And some reports indicate that Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for National Heritage, may make a cut of up to £10m.

An Arts Council spokeswoman said yesterday: "It is true that if we do not receive an increase in annual grant from the Government, we cannot give our clients an increase in grant. It is also true that this will mean some clients will not be able to

fulfill the criteria on which we awarded them lottery money, and some lottery projects could have to be curtailed, amended or abandoned.

"The Government cannot get off the hook by cutting annual arts revenue grants and saying everything is all right because of the lottery. The great good news of the lottery simply may not happen. This is because there will not be enough revenue money to sustain high-quality artistic activities once the projects are completed."

A senior Arts Council source confirmed last night that the organisations listed above "and many others" would need to be reassessed if there was a cut in government grant.

Despite the gimmick of handing over giant cheques to ecstatic recipients on the Saturday night lottery television show, it does not in fact work this way at all. No money is given to the good causes until they have honoured their business and artistic plans and completed certain rebuilding work.

A spokesman at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, which won a £3.7m lottery award for new rehearsal studios, said he still expected to receive the money. But he admitted that a cut in annual grant would affect "the core activity, size and quality of our orchestra".

At the launch of the annual report of the National Heritage Memorial Fund yesterday, its chairman, Lord Rothschild, warned that the Government seemed to be going back on its promise not to reduce state heritage aid and grants when lottery funding arrived. Unless the process of public spending cuts was reversed, Lord Rothschild said it would result in a spectacular U-turn on everything the Government said when the lottery was launched.

DAILY POEM

From Piers Powerbook's Prologue

By Sean O'Brien

*The conference season that year was a scorcher
But I wore Armani befitting the ambience,
Being both journ^o and sensual man,
And went down to the world to catch the day's wonders,
To clock the main marvels and so-called enigmas.*

*That sweating September beside Blackpool's seafront
I felt a bit sleepy, a smidgen hungover
And somewhat estranged by the night before's Es,
so by the Ramada's mezzanine fountain
I dozed like a toad in a hatbox, instead.*

*The dream I dreamed there was a digitized triumph:
The virtual arse-end of England, a field
Of old sidings and willowherb, slathered in junk-mail.
Above a great tower that inked out the sun
With its finger, as meanwhile its residents sang*

*Like a canary-cum-covines aloft in their carion column.
Beneath sank a festering pit like a privatized nick
Or a carpark, or both, with community care
A remote aspiration and here in the meantime
The creatures of mad with the citizens' charter*

*Crammed in the puss to prevent them
From biting their tongues off, not that they talk much.*

William Langland's 14th century satiric masterpiece *The Vision of Piers Plowman* is interpreted by eight contemporary poets at the South Bank tomorrow evening. Sean O'Brien begins at the beginning, transferring Langland's sleep-induced vision amongst the Malvern Hills of a "fair feelful of folk" – human society – going about its business between the poles of truth and darkness to Blackpool during the conference season. Bernard O'Donoghue, Peter Reading, Don Paterson and Helen Dunmore join O'Brien in the Purcell Rooms at 7.30pm. Box Office 0171 960 4342.

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international

Hutus back Zaire as rebels besiege airport

David Orr
Nairobi

The strategic airport at Goma was yesterday on the point of falling to Tutsi rebels as the conflict in eastern Zaire showed further signs of spreading across central Africa.

As night fell, the town faced imminent capture and aid agencies were preparing to evacuate their staff. The airport is a vital supply link both for aid agencies and the Zairean army.

The worst of the conflict had been confined to Zaire's South Kivu province where the Tutsi rebels, known as Banyamulenge, launched their insurgency. They have taken Bukavu, the provincial capital, and large-scale fighting has erupted in neighbouring North Kivu.

"We are in Goma now and our forces are fighting for control of Goma airport," a Banyamulenge spokesman said. "We

took Bukavu last [Wednesday] night."

The explosion of mortar rounds and the sound of heavy gunfire could be heard from early morning yesterday in the outskirts of Goma, a lakeside town which is the provincial capital of North Kivu.

"Our staff can hear a lot of mortar and small-arms fire from their offices in the town," said Alison Campbell of the Care aid agency who is in the Rwandan town of Gisenyi, just across the border.

"But they are effectively pinned down in the town and are unsure who holds the airport."

As well-equipped Banyamulenge rebels and the Zairean army (FAZ) shelled each other's positions on the edge of Goma, it was reported that Rwandan refugees were joining eastern Zaire's conflict on the side of the FAZ. Such a development of risks plunging the region into ethnic bloodshed

similar to that seen in Rwanda in 1994 when at least half-a-million people, mostly minority Tutsi, were massacred by the country's majority Hutus.

Yesterday, bloated corpses, some with their hands bound, were to be seen floating down the Ruzizi River which divides Zaire and Burundi. It was unclear if the dead were Zaireans or Burundians, Hutsi or Tutsi, but they have been floating into Lake Tanganyika for the past two weeks.

Already, Rwanda has come embroiled in the conflict, its troops trading artillery fire with the FAZ across the border in South Kivu. Zaire has accused the Tutsi-dominated regimes of both Rwanda and Burundi of backing the Banyamulenge Tutsi, which both deny.

Zaire's huge Rwandan refugee population contains many of those who participated in the 1994 genocide. Facing

capture by advancing Tutsi rebels, extremist Hutu militias and the remnants of Rwanda's routed army fled over the border into Zaire. During the past year, Hutu insurgents from the refugee camps have been launching increasingly frequent incursions into Rwanda. Now it seems the Rwandan rebels, fearful of retribution if they return to their homeland, are once again fighting Tutsi, this time alongside the FAZ.

"Our staff have had reliable eyewitness reports that former Rwandan army troops and Hutu militias are being carried to the front in buses from Mugunga refugee camp where they have been based," Alison Campbell said.

Yesterday, huge columns of panic-stricken refugees were said to be fleeing towards Mugunga, which with 400,000 inhabitants, is already the largest refugee settlement in the world.

in

In the target zone: Dr Abdullah Karimi with the body of his son Assad, sb, killed by a bomb yesterday. Photograph: AP



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لدى الراجل

Why China is keeping Wang Dan's punishment a big secret

In Peking few have heard of dissident's 11-year-jail term, reports Teresa Poole

Peking - While the rest of the world was criticising China for locking up a young dissident, ordinary Chinese people yesterday were left in the dark about the 11-year jail sentence passed on Wang Dan for "plotting to subvert the government". The authorities have ordered a news blackout on the trial, except for one report in China's only English-language daily newspaper.

On Peking's busy Wangfujing shopping street yesterday afternoon, not one of a dozen

"It's really not good. What will he do after he is released?"

people stopped at random had heard of the trial or the sentence on 27-year-old Mr Wang. Three students from the Academy of Arts were surprised by the news. Li Ruohui said: "It's really not good. He is still so young. What will he do after he is released, he will be nearly 40?" His companions agreed. "It is too severe," one said.

People were confused about why Mr Wang had been put on trial. His name is still well known because of his role as a student leader in the spring 1989 pro-democracy protests in the city. So, everyone assumed this latest sentence must refer back to Mr Wang's 1989 activities.

It is not generally known that Mr Wang served three-and-a-half years in jail for his 1989 role, and was released in February 1993. According to the court verdict, he used the following two years to attempt an overthrow of the government, allegedly through writing newspaper articles for the foreign press and contacting exiled dissidents in the United States.

The fact that most Chinese people still identify Mr Wang with the June 1989 protests probably explains why Chinese newspapers and the broadcast media did not report Wednesday's verdict. In contrast, when China's most famous dissident, Wei Jingsheng, was sentenced last December to

14 years, the verdict and punishment were announced in detail on the that evening's main television news, and recorded in many newspapers. But Mr Wei played no part in 1989, as he was in jail at the time.

The government knows that Mr Wang's case is potentially much more sensitive, because the student leaders enjoyed widespread support from the local population in 1989. A woman in her forties in Wangfujing, when told about the trial, yesterday said: "It's pitiable, pitiful. He's too young." Mr Wang has been locked up for all but 27 months since he was 20.

Western countries have lashed China for the harsh sentence, but Peking knows it is unlikely to face any practical censure. A Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday said that Mr Wang's case "has nothing to do with the issue of human rights ... I don't think the case of Wang Dan will have any effect on Sino-US relations."

In Washington, the White House said it was "deeply concerned" by the verdict. Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, will visit Peking later this month, planned, but will raise the cases of Mr Wang and Mr Wei with his Chinese hosts. The department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said that isolating China would not have a positive effect on human rights.

The Foreign Office in London was "dismayed" by the heavy sentence, and France said it was as "shocking" as Mr Wei's jail term. But Europe seems resigned to the fact that neither threats nor quiet diplomacy will have much impact on human rights in China, and risk jeopardising business deals.

In Hong Kong, where sovereignty is to be transferred to China next June, the Governor, Chris Patten, said: "I recognise the very considerable concern that many people in Hong Kong ... feel about a sentence imposed on a young man for activities which in most places, including Hong Kong, would be entirely legal." The paucity of evidence on which Mr Wang was convicted has kindled fears of curbs on freedom of speech in Hong Kong after next June.

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Cry freedom: Wang Dan, right, with members of his family in Peking in February 1993 following his release after serving more than three years for his part in the 1989 pro-democracy movement

Photograph: Greg Baker/AP

King Cotton and hate bite the dust

DELTA DAYS

The landscape remains the same: a vast alluvial plain of woods, swamps and streams, but above all of flat cotton fields stretching to the horizon, dreamy and more beautiful than ever in the soft glow of autumn. And everywhere the unseen presence of the river, whose floods have left behind the richest soil in America.

This is a place haunted by ghosts, of segregation, brutality, slavery. And by many measures, this is still among the poorest places in America. But, amazingly, life on the Mississippi Delta is changing for the better.

Not very long ago, the blacks picked the cotton, bondsmen of hard-nosed white farmers lacking even the veneer of *ante-bellum* graciousness. People like Leslie McLemore, son of a sharecropper who is now a professor at Jackson State University, remembers those days well. Like every other black teenager he spent late summer and autumn picking cotton.

One image especially sticks in his mind: "It must have been around 1956. Some white people were driving down to New Orleans and stopped to take pic-

tures. And it truly was an amazing sight, a sea of people, all the white cotton and black faces for acres and acres and acres."

"Back then a black boy was paid 25 cents an hour for a 10 hour day - slave wages. But for the family budget it was vital. The only way a sharecropper could escape was to run away at night. No wonder I had Mississippi nationalism at high school, saying to myself, 'we've got to change this damn place'."

Now, finally, it is changing. The harvest is done by machines but more important, King Cotton is slipping from its pedestal. The big money is soybeans and catfish farming and the biggest money is in gambling. Casinos are springing up along the river from Tunica county in the north to Vicksburg in the South.

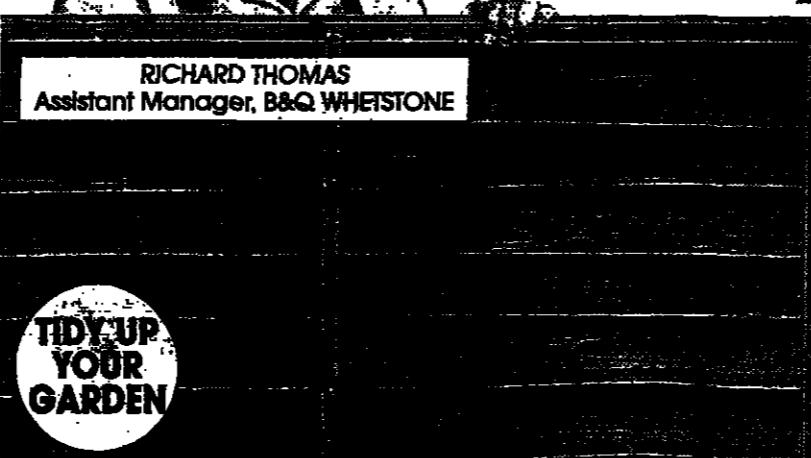
But the greatest change of all is in race relations. In growing numbers, Delta Mississippians who left to seek their fortune are returning. McLemore says: "Nowadays I find overt racism elsewhere. Here I don't act any differently from any place in the world." Can this be Mississippi, USA?

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Judge thwarts move to censor Bardot book

A judge rejected a request by the son and an ex-husband of Brigitte Bardot to excise passages from her memoirs branding their baby, Nicolas, a "tumour" and his father, Jacques, a "vulgar macho". They had asked for 80 pages be slashed from her 555-page *Initiales B.B.* under strict French laws governing privacy. The book, published a month ago, has sold 400,000 copies. *Reuter - Paris*

Kurds set to extend truce

The US peace envoy Robert Pelletreau said two Iraqi Kurdish groups had agreed to extend permanently a truce declared after two months' Kurdish in-fighting in north Iraq. "All participants agree to maintain and strengthen the ceasefire within a permanent context," he said. *Reuter - Ankara*

Police fall out in Japan

Japan's police chief accused Tokyo Police Department of covering up a confession by one of its officers, who has emerged as the primary suspect in the police chief's attempted assassination. Takaji Kunimatsu was shot and seriously injured on 30 March last year outside his home. Police have failed to solve the case, although they suspect a connection with the doomsday cult whose members are accused of masterminding the gas attack on Tokyo subways. *AP - Tokyo*

Dispute over museum on Gestapo site

German Jews attacked the city of Berlin for halting work on a museum on the site of the Gestapo secret police. But Klaus Landowsky, head of the Christian Democrats in the city parliament, said there was no money for the 45m-Mark (£20m) project. "I do not need to be taught history lessons about Germany's coming to terms with its history," he said. *Reuter - Berlin*

Pope to write his memoirs

The Pope is to publish a brief volume of memoirs covering parts of the 50 years since his ordination. They are expected to take the form of a short booklet and will be issued by the Vatican publishing house. The date of publication has not been decided. The Pope, 76, marks the 50th anniversary of his ordination tomorrow. His 1995 book, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, was an international bestseller. *Reuter - Rome*

Ozone hole going for a record

If the size of the ozone hole over Antarctica is maintained until the middle of next week, it will be another record-setting season, the World Meteorological Organisation said. The hole's advance to a latitude of nearly 50 degrees south for a few days during the past week was "an extremely rare event". *Reuter - Geneva*

Chirac's army of jobless grows

Paris — The monthly unemployment figures published yesterday brought more bad news for the French government, with another 28,000 people being added to the register in September, a rise of almost 1 per cent over August. The total now stands at 3.1 million, or 12.6 per cent of the population of working age, one of the highest rates in Europe.

Particularly worrying for the government was the 2.9 per cent rise in the number of under-25s without a job. Even though it was September, and the first time that some disappointed school-leavers might

UNEMPLOYMENT IN FRANCE
millions

Year	Unemployment (millions)
1993	1.4
1994	2.0
1995	2.8
1996	2.6

have registered as unemployed, the government had hoped to keep the rise down by dint of additional subsidies and training programmes.

The trend in unemployment in France has now been inexorably upward since Jacques Chirac was elected president and Alain Juppé became prime minister in June 1995.

This despite Mr Chirac's election pledges to make jobs a priority in his programme to heal what he saw as the growing rift between the haves and the have-nots in French society.

In his victory speech on election night, he told supporters: "Employment will be my constant concern." In his presidential address to parliament, which was presented by Mr

Mary Dejevsky
reports on the French leader's failure to tackle unemployment

Juppé, he spoke of "waging war" on unemployment, saying: "I want each one of you, in your constituency, to spearhead our battle for jobs."

Mr Juppé's first policy statement to parliament stressed the priority of jobs, especially for the young unemployed and claimed that his other priority, cutting the domestic budget deficit to meet the criteria for joining the single European currency, was entirely compatible with creating more jobs.

Over the past year, however, unemployment has risen by more than 1 per cent, no dent has been made in the number of under-25s without jobs, and the government has had to recognise the failure of many of its job creation schemes and subsidies, quietly ending many of them in the 1997 budget that is currently before parliament.

The government's failure to fulfil what was a priority of Mr Chirac's election programme and the policy that arguably gave him victory is a key factor in the government's current vulnerability and the depressed state of public morale in France.

Both Mr Chirac and Mr Juppé have called on French consumers to help economic growth by spending more, but fear about job security are blamed for holding them back.

The Socialist opposition was quick to decry the rise in unemployment yesterday, in particular the number of young without jobs.

A spokesman for the Socialist Opposition, Pierre Moscovici, described the rise in joblessness as "a disastrous



Face on anger: A protest last month against government austerity measures

Photograph: Philippe Wojazer/Reuters

The Mafia's £400 entry ticket to Fortress Europe

Andrew Gumbel
Rome

by the police and arrested, the ragged, weather-battered Maghrebins who arrived on Lampedusa at dawn could safely assume they would be free in a matter of hours. According to a well-worn ritual, suspected illegals are routinely shipped from Lampedusa to the nearest large police station (conveniently located in Porto Empedocle in Sicily, several nautical miles closer to civilisation), given an expulsion order and told they have 15 days to make their own way out of the country. Inevitably, they just disappear, either choosing to stay in Italy or else moving on to Germany or France.

This is the absurd immigration policy that has made Italy highly unpopular with co-signers of the Schengen agreement and which has so far prevented it from being admitted to the club of EU nations operating a policy of open borders among themselves, coupled with tight controls on outsiders. Italy hopes to become a full member of the Schengen group by March but has yet to tighten up its border policies in any significant way.

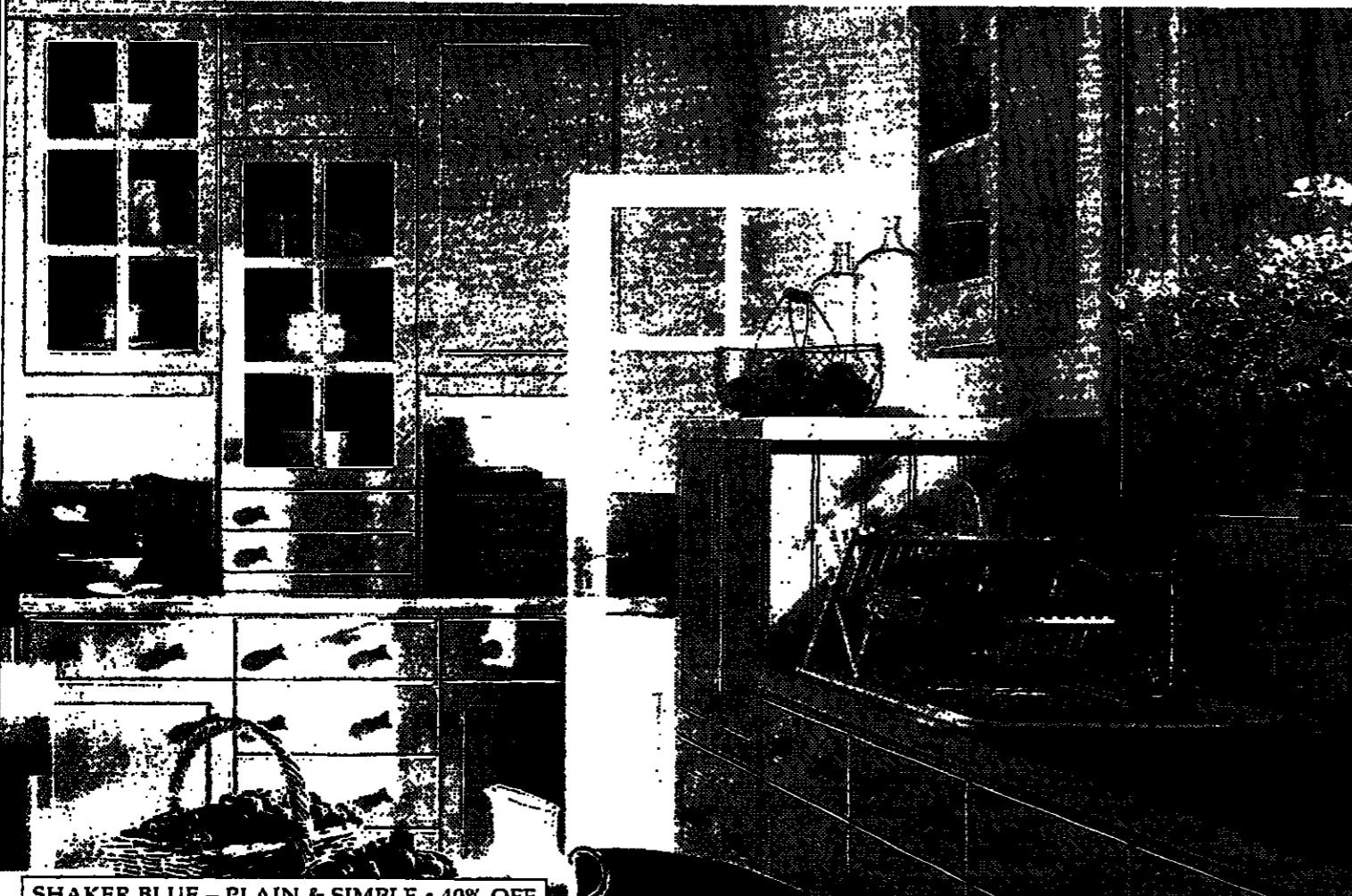
Italian politicians, especially on the left, and the moderate Catholic parties now in power, appear reluctant to impose any immigration policy for fear that they will be accused of helping to create a xenophobic "fortress Europe". This attitude, however, effectively takes immigration policy out of the hands of government and into the control of Mafia gangs who take payment — in the North Africa's case around £400 per head — in exchange for organising the boat trips.

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Islamists punished in Egypt's cruel jails

Cairo - Just off the Cairo-Alexandria desert highway near Wadi Latroun, the Egyptians are building a massive new prison with 15ft-thick walls of solid concrete, capable of holding thousands of new prisoners arrested in President Mubarak's war against his violent Islamist opponents.

The extension to the Delta prison complex is the despair of Cairo human rights groups who now fear Egypt's overcrowded and brutal prisons are being used as detention camps for men who may never face trial.

Already, up to 20,000 Islamists are in Egyptian prisons officially "awaiting trial". Mohamed Mounib, secretary general of the Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights (EOHR), believes at least 17,000 men are being held without any judicial hearing.

"Even the minister of interior doesn't know the true figure," he says. "He admitted he didn't

know in a newspaper interview. What are we to make of this?" We repeatedly send our reports of torture and deaths in Egyptian jails to the minister - to the embassies as well, the Americans and the other western diplomats - but they never reply.

At least 30 prisoners are believed to have died from ill-treatment or torture in Egyptian prisons so far this year, but Mr Mounib's group, which works with Human Rights Watch in Washington, is producing ever more convincing evidence that whipping and flogging are carried out routinely as collective punishments for thousands of inmates, often for minor misdemeanours. In Section 4 of Block 2H of the special High Security Prison in the Tora complex 20 miles from Cairo, 20 prisoners were stripped naked and flogged with canes on their backs, feet and buttocks last June after soldiers found a pocket radio and a watch on an inmate, Gamal Osman, a medical student.

When another search uncovered a pen in the possession of Ali Nasir in Block 4H - grimly nicknamed the "Scorpion" by

prisoners and wardens alike - all 80 occupants of the block's cells were stripped and whipped by police officers and soldiers. The EOHR points out in its latest report that the two most senior officers of the State Security Investigation Department at the prison - Colonel Hazen and Lieutenant Colonel Abdel-Nasr El-Bashaw - must know of the ferocity to which the men are subjected because both live inside the prison.

They allow inmates to be taken regularly to the notorious Tora Street state security offices in central Cairo where members of the violent

"Gama'a Islamiya" Islamic Group - are regularly tortured with electricity.

In the "Scorpion", according to testimony from former prisoners, food is infested with insects and distributed in dirty buckets. For more than two years, inmates of the Tora complex have been deprived of visits from relatives. The Egyptian police authorities say they "close" prisons from visitors to prevent Islamist leaders sending instructions to their members to carry out new attacks against tourists, foreigners and the security forces. But mistreatment includes sadism. Men held in desert jails have complained that they are given female names by wardens and then ordered to rape each other as a punishment for infringement of prison rules.

Without much hope of improvement in human rights, Mr Mounib has written to President Mubarak and Hassan Aifi, the Minister of Interior, demanding they approve all declarations of the International Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, set up an independent committee to investigate prison conditions

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obituaries / gazette

Marcel Carné

It was Marcel Carné's destiny (a word be himself, an indefatigable romancer of fate and its vicissitudes, would not have found too strong) to witness the unity, cohesion and ultimate meaning of his work devastated by the events of ominously pregnant atmosphere had so vividly anticipated - the Second World War. Once, arguably, the most esteemed of all French film-makers, the standard-bearer of the movement known as "poetic realism", the director responsible for having provided published histories of the cinema with a few of their most haunting and haunted stills (which is not, of course, quite the same thing as making great films), he found himself divested after the war of both his talent and his reputation - "dis-incarnated", as the critic André

Bazin pertinently and punningly put it. What is more, his increasingly precipitous post-war decline was to be accompanied by a corresponding critical devaluation of his once unsavable pre-war classics.

During the Fifties the revisionist young iconoclasts of the influential journal *Cahiers du Cinéma* (who were later to become the leading film-makers of the New Wave) claimed that these had been the creations less of Carné himself than of his scenarist, the poet of populist Surrealism, Jacques Prévert. That they were not truly realised *films d'auteur*, the inner visions of an artist transferred directly on to celluloid, but mere illustrations, however brilliant, of another man's scripts. That the iconography of "poetic realism" - a pungent iconography of

(studio-recreated) working-class neighbourhoods, of sad rain-swept cobblestones, of leather-coated, cloche-hatted "ladies of the night", of deserters, Le gionnaires and petty criminals of the inarticulate *amour fou* of the proletariat - was essential a middle-class mystification synthetic and depoliticised.

And when the polemic surrounding his career finally ebbed into silence and indifference, instead of emerging afresh from the Purgatory to which he had been unceremoniously consigned, Carné vanished into a limbo of almost total neglect.

Perhaps the easiest manner of judging whether the indictment was unjust or not is to ask oneself what is one remembers from the most characteristic of his films. From *Quai des brumes* (1938), for instance, one remembers Prévert's dialogue for Jean Gabin and Michèle Morgan - Gabin: "Where are you going?" Morgan: "I don't know." Gabin: "Ah, I'm going your way..." - but also Carné's indelible image of Morgan in her ethereal white cellophane rain-coat framed against the window of a cafe. From *Les Portes de la nuit* (1946) one remembers Carné's meticulous reconstruction of the Paris Métro in which practically all of the action takes place, but also the nihilistic cynicism of another Prévertian exchange (between Pierre Brasseur and a passerby): "What's happening?" "Oh, nothing. A woman drowning." From the early *Jerry* (1936) one remembers the graceful nonchalance with which a gentleman removes his monocle to kiss a young woman on the cheek, and from *Drôle de drame*, a Gallic "Ealing comedy" made in 1937, Louis Jouvet's much-anthologised line: "Bizarre? Moi j'ai dit bizarre? Comme c'est bizarre!" One remembers too, from *Jerry*, Jean-Louis Barrault as a dandified hunchback who cannot bear to see a woman shed tears because no woman has ever shed tears for him and, from *Les Visiteurs du soir*, a medieval fantasy made in 1942, Arletty, incomparably chic in doublet and hose, drawing in her earthly nasal whinny: "Dla-a-a-ble...!" One remembers the tiny street-corner hotel in which a suicidal Gabin holes up during *Le Jour se lève* (1939) and the exuberantly uncompromisingly corrupt Jules Berry with his troupe of performing dogs from the same film. One remembers the naggingly plaintive soundtrack scores of Maurice Jaubert and Joseph Kosma, and the flaccid Gauloises Bleues dangling from world-weary faces, faces whose lines can be read like those of a hand, and one remembers above all the astonishing number of Carné's and Prévert's characters who have cause, at one moment or another of the narrative, to sigh "C'est drôle la vie!"

These films then, impinge on our consciousness above all as *memories*, memories often as potent and unshakable as those of our own private lives; and if, as we know, memory sometimes plays tricks, if the original films, regarded strictly as works of art, not as repositories of unforgettable moments, are probably rather less innovative than many less familiar works of the same period, it is, after all, the prerogative of memory to be unfairly partisan. In any case, when the mythology of a filmmaker has so seamlessly coincided with the mythology of a whole nation, it would be absurd to attribute the responsibility solely to the work of a scriptwriter.

Indeed, where Carné's most cherished film is concerned,

not even his detractors have been prepared to belittle the director's contribution. *Les Enfants du Paradis* (1945) might perhaps be described as the French *Gone With The Wind*, except that it happens to be an infinitely superior work. Filmed during the Occupation under extremely hazardous conditions and set in Paris's notorious "Boulevard du Crime" of the 1840s, *Les Enfants* is a melodrama of unsurpassed sumptuousness, recounting the futile passion of the mime Debora for the courtesan Garance (Barrault and Arletty giving two of the most brilliant performances in cinema history) against a sweeping, panoramic vision of Parisian society, *its monde* and its *demi-monde*, the world of the theatre and the underworld of crime. No one has ever judged this film its undying reputation.

Of Carné's postwar output, however, it would be difficult to offer much of a defence, whether of the dated, backward-looking romanticism of *Juliette au Clé des songes* (1951) or his doomed endeavour to keep abreast of the times with two grotesquely implausible studies of disaffected youth, *Terrain vague* (1960) and *Les Jeunes Louis* (1968, 1969). It seems inconceivable that the man who directed Arletty when she uttered her famous "Atmosphère, atmosphère...!" on the Canal Saint-Martin bridge in *Hôtel du Nord* (1938) could still have been at work 30 years later while Maoist students were manning the barricades along the Boulevard Saint-Michel: *C'est drôle la vie!*

Gilbert Adair

When Marcel Carné embarked on *Les Enfants du Paradis* in 1943, he and his scriptwriter, Jacques Prévert were under instructions from the German Occupation forces to make an "escapist" film, writes Mike Goodridge. It is hard to believe that the lavish work that resulted was made under such oppressive conditions. Only three



Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

days after shooting began in Paris, the United States invaded Sicily, thus forcing Carné and his crew to return to Paris. When he returned to Nice in November 1943, he found the set so badly damaged by storms that it had to be completely rebuilt. The Germans were present throughout shooting, in an effort to ensure that every actor and crew member belonged to a collaborationist union; the production designer Alexandre Trauner and the film's composer, Joseph Kosma, were Jewish, so their involvement had to remain secret.

Following the fall of Mussolini, the Nazis exerted further pressure by banning Italo-Franco productions. Shooting was also subject to a 7 o'clock curfew which ruled out night scenes. By the time it was premiered in March 1945, it was the most expensive French film ever made.

Working closely with Carné, Arletty evoked Paris a century earlier when Louis Philippe was on the throne. Its title referred to the working-class poor who sat in the gods of the Théâtre des Funambules, loudly shouting their dis-

content.

Marcel Carné, film director; born Paris 18 August 1906; died Paris 31 October 1996.



Undying romance: Pierre Brasseur, Arletty and Jean-Louis Barrault in *Les Enfants du Paradis* (1945), directed by Carné. Photograph: Sygma

Sir Roderick Barclay

Most people who knew Roderick Barclay associated him with Ernest Bevin, whose Private Secretary he was at the end of Bevin's time as Foreign Secretary (1949-51) and about whom he wrote a sympathetic memoir.

Within the Foreign Service he was perhaps best known to my generation of post-war entrants as head of the personnel department (1946-49), since he was probably the first member of the Foreign Office that we new entrants called on. In my case, after sending me off for a spell abroad, Barclay brought me back into his own department where he proved to be a most agreeable boss, educating the juniors mainly by example.

Barclay was a surprising choice as Bevin's Private Secretary since, at first sight, he and his intended master had nothing in common. Barclay was the epitome of the pre-war diplomat - Harrow and Cambridge, fairly tall with a conventional moustache, speaking with a slight drawl, addicted to shooting with a slight drawl, addicted to shooting with a slight drawl.

He himself was far from content that he would win Bevin's approval. But in the event he was probably the most successful of the exceptionally able men who served Bevin as Private Secretary. He had the knack of calming his master down as

well as the essential gift of interpreting to the rest of the Foreign Office and to Foreign Ministers and Ambassadors what Bevin wanted to say or do. It is to the credit of both men that they achieved such a close and effective relationship.

There was in fact more to Barclay than met the eye. I recalled that he sometimes gave the impression of being vague or even lackadaisical when I used to go and consult him on behalf of Sir William Strang in the early Fifties about some important incoming telegram. But in a very short time a well thought-out draft reply would be produced and I realised that Barclay was a clever man who chose not to seem clever. I be-

lieve that his ability as a senior official adviser came out especially in the early Sixties when he was one of Edward Heath's very strong team for the negotiations in Brussels to attempt to join the EEC.

Barclay's career in the service ended with his two embassies, first to Denmark and then to Belgium for five years, where he and his wife occupied the delightful house which was then the embassy, both comfortable to live in and well adapted for diplomatic entertainment. Lady Barclay was an admirable hostess, dignified, considerate and always competent - even including George Brown to behave with reasonable decorum when staying at the embassy.

The Barclays undertook several demanding social entertainments during their time in Brussels, including a State visit by the Queen in 1966 and the ball which formed part of the ceremonies commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. This took place on the anniversary of the Duchess of Richmond's famous ball on the eve of the Battle of Quatre Bras, and was a very brilliant affair.

Roddy Barclay was an exceptionally nice man, engagingly modest but with a certain Harrovian panache which carried him through some awkward situations.

Alan Campbell

Roderick Edward Barclay, diplomat; born 22 February 1909; CMG 1948; KCMG 1955; CVO 1953; KCVO 1957; GCVO 1965; married 1934 Jean Gladstone (died 1996; one son, three daughters); died 24 October 1996.

After retirement in 1969 Barclay resumed touch with the family bank for which he had originally been destined and became chairman of Barclays Bank in France as well as taking on various other business commitments. He then had greater leisure to enjoy family life at his home in Buckinghamshire and to shoot and fish there and in various other parts of England and Scotland. He was a fine shot and maintained his skill to a very late age. Indeed he retained all his faculties to a late age and kept up his interest in his old service through one of his daughters, who had married a diplomat.

The Barclays undertook several demanding social entertainments during their time in Brussels, including a State visit by the Queen in 1966 and the ball which formed part of the ceremonies commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. This took place on the anniversary of the Duchess of Richmond's famous ball on the eve of the Battle of Quatre Bras, and was a very brilliant affair.

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After some years as a lecturer at the University of Cork, O Ceallaigh joined C.F. Powell's group at Bristol from 1949 to 1957. This was something of a golden era for physics in Britain, when revolutionary new discoveries in cosmic rays

Professor Cormac O Ceallaigh

Cormac O Ceallaigh, Emeritus Professor of Physics at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies was one of the most distinguished physicists in Ireland. His research field was that of cosmic rays and elementary particle physics, to which subjects he made many seminal contributions.

The son of a prominent Dublin obstetrician, O Ceallaigh's career as a scientist started at University College, Dublin. His postgraduate research was carried out at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge from 1935 to 1938, after a year in Paris with the great French cosmic ray physicist, Pierre Auger. At Cambridge, O Ceallaigh worked in the field of nuclear physics, coming directly under the eye and the influence of Lord Rutherford. A brilliant scholar, he gained an 1851 (Commonwealth) Fellowship, the award being announced to him by Rutherford to a late age and kept up his interest in his old service through one of his daughters, who had married a diplomat.

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curled almost daily. Of several important experiments undertaken by O Ceallaigh, one regarding the nature of the neutral particle (neutrino) emitted in the decay of an elementary particle called the pion, stands out and has ramifications to this day. The exact nature of this neutrino remains a puzzle; it impacts on the observed deficit of neutrinos from the sun, and on how very massive stars, in their final death throes, explode as supernovae.

In 1953, O Ceallaigh took up the post of Senior Professor in Cosmic Ray Physics at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. There he continued his association with Bristol University, concentrating on the study of the superheavy nuclei in the cosmic rays (those heavier than iron and nickel), using special plastic detectors carried in the stratosphere by unmanned balloons in very long flights (sometimes even crossing the Atlantic).

These experiments continued through the 1960s and early 1970s, to be followed by even more ambitious ventures. Huge detector arrays, 10 square metres or more in area, were prepared by O Ceallaigh and his colleagues in Dublin, to be carried on flights of the US Space

released in a supernova outburst is in the form of invisible neutrinos, and although not yet fully understood, our computer models of the explosive mechanism - whether it blossoms or stalls - seem to depend critically on the nature of those neutrinos and their interactions: indeed, precisely those questions that O Ceallaigh had been addressing in a quite different context 40 years previously.

In 1951, O Ceallaigh was elected Fellow of the Royal Irish Academy. He was also a Council Member of the European Physical Society, and a Boyle Medal winner.

Many of us will remember him as an accomplished and brilliant speaker at international conferences with a mortally witty and great sense of humour. Aside from physics, Cormac O Ceallaigh's diverse tastes included linguistics, cabinet-making and gardening; and his passion for sailing was such that he and his late wife Millie arranged a race in different classes of boat so as not to compete with each other.

D.H. Perkins

Cormac O Ceallaigh, physicist; born Dublin 29 July 1912; married 1939 Millie Carr (died 1987; three daughters); died Dublin 10 October 1996.



O Ceallaigh: cosmic rays

Shuttle. Intended for a one-year exposure, due to various failures the equipment was to stay in orbit for six years before being recovered. This had the fortunate consequence that it provided by far the most prolific data available on the fluxes of the very heaviest nuclei.

In particular, these included nuclei heavier than bismuth (those in the actinide series, such as uranium, plutonium and californium). We believe that these are produced as a result of very rapid neutron capture processes which occur, and only occur, in the course of supernova explosions.

These experiments continued through the 1960s and early 1970s, to be followed by even more ambitious ventures. Huge detector arrays, 10 square metres or more in area, were prepared by O Ceallaigh and his colleagues in Dublin, to be carried on flights of the US Space

favour of or against the implication of the proposed term.

As to the surrounding circumstances, it was crucial that this was a collective agreement negotiated across a broad front for a substantial labour force. It represented a carefully negotiated compromise between the employees' desire for an assured weekly wage spread over a long period regardless of hours worked, and the employers' desire to avoid the high cost of overtime rates for work done at periods of peak demand.

Such an agreement must be concise and clear, so as to be readily understood by all concerned. One would expect the parties to set their face against attempts to legislate for every possible contingency.

Should any topic be left uncovered, the natural inference was not that there had been an omission so obvious as to require judicial correction; rather, that the topic was omitted advisedly from the terms of the agreement, as being too controversial or complicated to justify any variation of the main terms to take account of it.

This was a very plain case against the implication of the proposed term.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

No term to be implied into yearly pay deal

LAW REPORT

1 November 1996

Lord Justice White said the employees were engaged in the processing and storage of vegetables. They had a workforce of about 150 at their cold store and factory in Lowestoft, Suffolk. They negotiated with two unions, the AEU and TGWU, collective annualisation agreements to run from 1 June 1992. These provided that the workforce, which had previously been paid on a traditional arrangement as hourly paid workers entitled to overtime if and when worked in any particular week, should thenceforth be paid a standard wage (varying according to the grade of employee) on the basis of a roster providing for a total of 1824 hours over the year. The hours and wages were calculated broadly on the basis of an average working week of 40 hours of the year, adjusted to take account of holiday entitlement.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the employer, Christian Salvesen Food Services Ltd, against the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (1996 ICR 1) and restored the decision of an industrial tribunal on 7 December 1993, dismissing the complaint of the employee, Osmond Ali.

No specific provision was made in either the collective agreement or the individual employment contracts incorporating it, for the eventuality that an employee might cease work for any reason before the 12 month period was completed and the 1824 hours worked.

The agreement itself was wholly silent as to consequences of premature termination. This was not therefore a case where the contractual documents created by their wording an internal context in

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

FRANCIS ST DOMINIC O'BRIEN, 81, died 28 October 1996 after a short illness. Loving husband of St John, Kevin, Carmel, Anne and Sean. Funeral to be held at St John's Church, St John's, on Friday 1 November. Donations to be made to Action Aid, the Woodland Trust or the British Diabetic Association. Enquiries to B & C Funeral Services, 0114 276 2721.

ANTONIO BENEVENTO, 87, died 2 November 1996. Beloved husband of Paola. Funeral to be held at St Peter's Church, St Peter's, on Friday 14 November. Donations to the new Veterans Centre at the Royal British Legion, Northgate Lane, Sheffield, or the Royal British Legion, 100 London Road, Sheffield, 0114 232 5012 or fax 0114 232 5010. Charge for 0114 276 2721.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, has an Investiture at Buckingham Palace on Friday 22 November 1996. The Investiture will be for the prevention of Cleft Lip and Palate. The Queen will be present. The Investiture will be held at the Royal Mews, Royal Mews, London, SW1. The Queen will be present. The Investiture will be held at the Royal Mews, Royal Mews, London,

EMU: out of the seminar, into the street

The single currency is just around the corner, and it looks as if Europe is finally waking up to the real implications of moving to a single currency for Europe show political, economic, social, diplomatic and financial implications that go far beyond what most people had imagined. Debates that have been rumbling along in one form or another the past half-decade are suddenly starting to converge. The effects of moving towards a single currency are not coming next year, or next century, but right now. In fact, demonstrably, they are with us this week.

Let's look at those converging debates. The first is the discussion between governments and central banks over the terms and conditions under which monetary union can take place. Yesterday, the European Commission decided that France could use an accounting fudge to get its public-sector accounts into shape for EMU – to the unhappiness of several other EU members, including those in Britain who fear for the effects on our economy if we do eventually decide to join.

The second debate is within governments, within national political parties, about whether to join. The Labour Party has become much firmer and more explicit in its views over the past few days, with its own muted brand of Euroscepticism stepping to the fore, while frontbenchers start to stake out their position. The Government also looks as if it is winding up for a more decisive

position statement. Much the same is happening throughout Europe. Those countries that can join are having to work out whether they want to; those that want to are having to decide if they can. In Italy, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and indeed everywhere on the Continent, that means making political decisions that will split parties and governments.

The third area of controversy is essentially social, but flows from the economic consequences: what will be the impact of joining, or even trying to join, if it means fiscal austerity? Lord Healey's dire warning of riots and mayhem, made in the House of Lords, referred explicitly to the example of France, where austerity has already brought people out on to the streets, and will do so again. Unemployment in France shot up to 12.6 per cent in September, a massive leap, leaving the prime minister, Alain Juppé, even more concerned for his political future than he already was.

All of these are alarm calls, signals that the seminar phase is over, and the political phase is underway. The ordinary people of Germany and France are registering their disquiet about the effects of preparing for the single currency, and in four or five months the British electorate will do the same.

Even in the City the onward march of the euro dominates strategic planning: where questions of pension liabilities, conversion rates, computer systems, exchange-rate exposure, trading systems and the location of trading facilities are all under active discussion. The previously

arcane question of what instruments a future European central bank will use is now a real battle between Britain and Germany. Jobs, money, politics and diplomacy make a combustible mixture.

Here, it is easy to have the impression that every significant issue of controversy has already been aired; but that is not really the case. The costs and benefits of joining will only really become apparent over the next few months, as the last pieces in the jigsaw are assembled. Monetary union is going to happen: whether we are inside or out, the consequences will be enormous. There will be no status quo ante to hang on to.

Of course, we are well accustomed to

the positions held by those who have fought within the Conservative Party over recent months. That proper argument has now been stilled, but it cannot remain under a lid for very long. More intriguingly, this week, we are starting to get a smell of the emergent opinion within the Labour Party, that the first tranche of entry to the single currency should be viewed as anyone who joins in the first few years – that seemed to be what Robin Cook was proposing at the weekend, and also Margaret Beckett subsequently. That might prove to be a good ruse, and not only for the British – in essence, to accumulate entrants over the first few years, but regard them all as first-starters.

Whether the French and Germans will go along with it, though, may be doubted.

The caution that Mr Cook and his friends demonstrate is well founded. There is much that we still do not know about monetary union, about its politics, its economics and its practicalities. But we must stay aware that the debate in Britain is lagging some years behind events in Europe. We have failed to get a grip with monetary union until now. There is a desperate need for the issues to be thrashed out; we cannot afford to have them silenced by party leaderships that fear seeming divided during the run-up to the election. Indeed, the election should in great measure be about this, the biggest decision Britain will take in the second half of the Nineties. But there are supporters and opponents of monetary union in both major parties. The Conservative leadership's fragile compromise with its sceptics, and the desire of Labour's leaders to appear contrastingly more Euro-positive, has obscured discussion. The new signals from Labour are to be welcomed, because they show that the debate is now moving from the level of rhetoric to practical commitments.

To those who have been immersed in Maastricht and all that since 1990, the arguments are already well rehearsed. But that is not the point. The most significant lesson so far from the monetary union argument is that little of this is understood by those whom a single currency will affect – consumers, workers, citizens. The indications in France and Germany are that the political élites have been running ahead of the voting population – that voters are only now turning round and protesting at the effects on them of tightening public spending to come in line with the demands of a new central bank. How much further behind, then, are the British public? Going ahead without the people's understanding and consent is a huge risk, but that is precisely what is being planned in Brussels. Bonn, Paris and elsewhere. It is a risk that those governments seem ready to take; it is a risk that has not yet been contemplated here. We have a campaign starting. We have to make sure our own political élite does not duck the question.

Millennial dilemmas

How would you celebrate the millennium? Some would like to build a vast inverted saucer with a lot of gigantic cocktail sticks poking out the top. Others suggest a vast street party (on the M1, perhaps?) or rides on Ferris wheel higher than St Paul's. John Butcher, a former minister, who has recently been on a monastery retreat, says we should shut down all TV transmission for a few days, and regard the event as a vast national escape, an enforced weekend of meditation. His idea would surely lead to half the nation running amok, while the other half collapsed in despair. As the old song says, maybe we should call the whole thing off.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Europe can save TV from Murdoch

Sir: Europe is the best place to look for an answer to the question "What will the politicians do?" in response to BSkyB's plans to launch a digital "set-top box" ("There are just days until Murdoch's digital TV conquest", 29 October).

When I tabled an amendment in the European Parliament to the TV standards draft directive two years ago demanding that a common interface should be part of the licensing requirement for every digital decoder box, it was defeated on the grounds that the technology wasn't ready at the time.

Now it's here, we in the European Parliament are urging a rewrite of existing European law to ensure that every broadcaster can reach every citizen on their own terms – in a free, not a rigged market. In this we are confident of success. Martin Bangemann, EU Commissioner for the Internal Market, is on record as declaring that an obligatory common interface is now necessary. The British government should follow this lead and produce convincing safeguards.

Potential purchasers should be warned that the boxes may soon be worthless as the licence to use them may be withdrawn when any such European law is translated into British legislation.

CAROLE TONGUE MEP (London East, Labour)
Socialist Group Co-ordinator on Media, European Parliament
Ilford, Essex

Sir: You are right to stress the importance of digital broadcasting and the risks of dominance of the gateway.

Viewers will choose to take their programmes through different delivery systems. Some will choose to take them from digital terrestrial broadcasting, some through satellite and some through cable. Each delivery system will cater for the particular needs of different groups of viewers. The BBC has a remit, through its Royal Charter, to provide public service broadcast programmes, free-to-air, to every viewer in the United Kingdom that we can reach. That remit remains as valid in the digital age as it does today.

The BBC is making a sizeable investment in digital programmes to give the viewer better picture and sound quality, and to provide the viewer with new free-to-air channels and services.

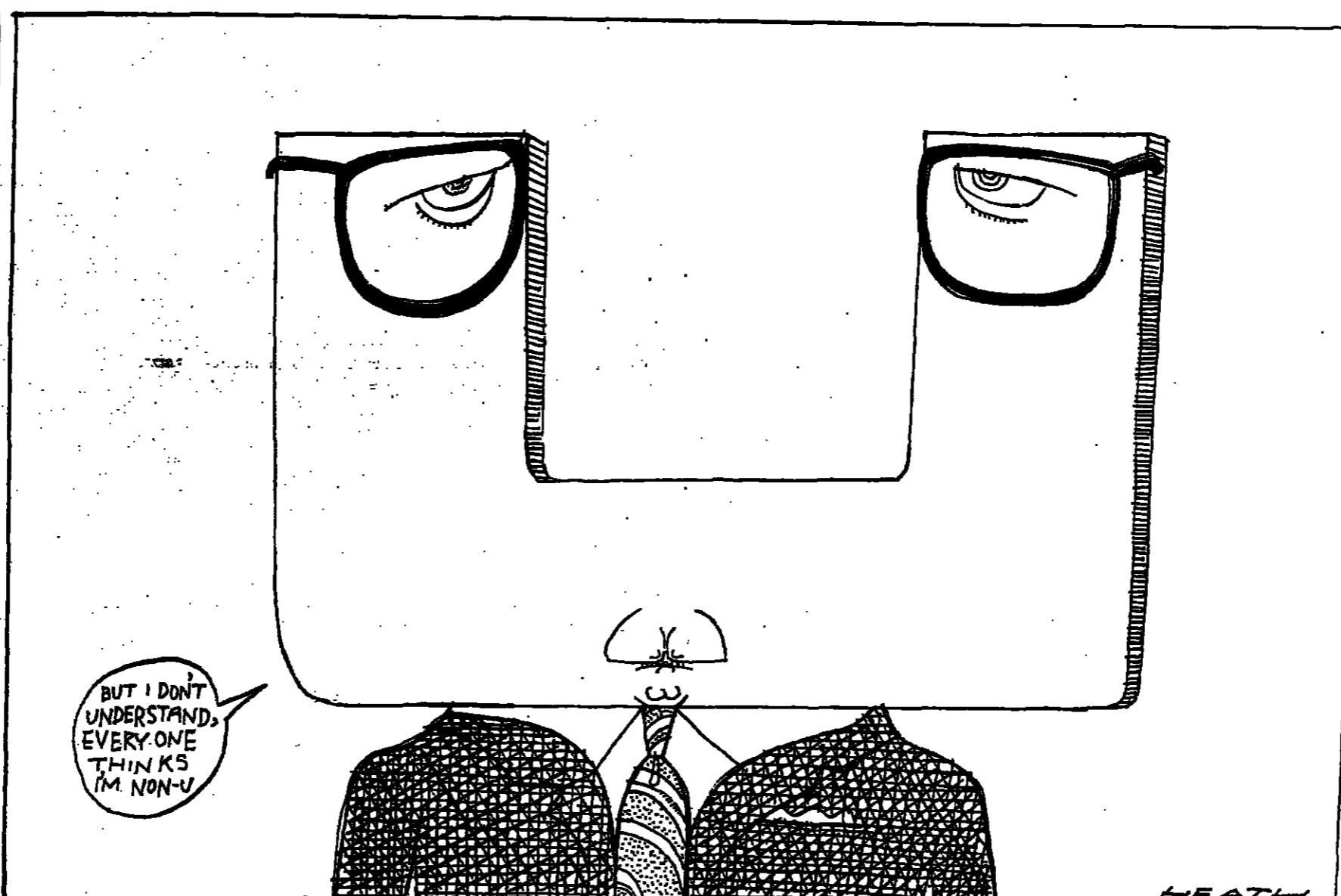
Every licence fee payer with a digital set should be able to receive these, regardless of the delivery system they have chosen: it would be absurd of us to ignore satellite in this respect.

The BBC has played a leading role in developing digital terrestrial technology. We are strongly committed to digital terrestrial, which we believe will enhance viewers' choice.

We have also taken the lead in pressing the politicians, both at Westminster and in Europe, to put in place a regulatory regime to encourage the take-up of digital on all systems and maximise competition and viewer choice. Some progress has been made, but more still needs to be done if audiences are to be the true beneficiaries of the digital age.

COLIN BROWNE
Director of Corporate Affairs, BBC
London W1

Sir: As Bruce Springsteen once sang, "57 channels and nothing



Michael Heath's Britain: Major U-turn

without proper criticism (for not all teachers are wonderful), but at least in the pragmatic realisation that their children's own self-interests are best served if they behave in a reasonable manner. Parents must take responsibility for their offspring, and stop blaming bad behaviour on bad teaching.

IAN M PERRY
Cotswold, Wiltshire

Sir: Home-school agreements ("Teachers to continue their strike over boy", 31 October) mean that a child's future is linked to the parents' behaviour. So the way out of a bad home through education will be denied to the very children who need it most.

I feel despair to hear these calls for discipline and the right of parents and teachers to beat children, set against the horror of

Sarah Neave's death. Had that child lived he would, no doubt, have caused mayhem in the classroom. Under the new proposals, he would have been excluded from school, and, if the Right has its way, beaten by his teachers.

Psychological support costs money. Providing jobs for a nation of forgotten, angry teenagers costs money. What on earth are we to do in an election year when sticking-plaster philosophy is all that politicians want to apply?

ANN MILNES ROBERTS
Jedburgh, Borders

Though more money is needed, on its own it will not provide the solution. Two badly behaved pupils in a class of 30 can easily take up 90 per cent of the teacher's time and effort. If parents really want the best for their children, then they must actively support teachers. By that I do not mean blindly, nor

prominence on the front page of your newspaper (29 October).

It would seem to me to encourage his feeling of power and importance, making the already almost impossible task of teachers trying to instill discipline even more difficult. To me it is thoughtful, irresponsible journalism.

J BOUGHTON
Chesham, Bucks

Sir: This week we have heard of the possibility of a return to corporal punishment in schools. The

Government has also announced that it is in favour of parent-school contracts, making parents more responsible for the behaviour of their children during school hours.

Why not take these two proposals a natural step further and cane parents whose children breach these contracts?

S P MITCHELL
Carshalton, Surrey

Sir: That Belgium is "run on political patronage", as reported by Sarah Helm (28 October), was confirmed this week by the Prime Minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene. Commenting on the somewhat indifferent food prepared for him at his official residence, Dehaene explained that the chef had only recently returned and was in any case "the nephew of my secretary".

DR COLIN LOVELACE

Brussels

Fair wind for turbine power

Sir: I must correct John Etherington (letter, 26 October)

regarding wind power in Britain. The land required to generate 10 per cent of total power demand from wind power is just 25 square kilometres. By comparison, more than 3,500 square kilometres of the UK is covered by roads, and agriculture takes up 185,000 square kilometres.

Furthermore, to generate 10 per cent of our energy from wind would require not 40,000 turbines but 10,000. There were 10,000 windmills in Britain at the beginning of the First World War.

TRICIA ALLEN
Friends of the Earth
London N1

Zoos safeguard wild animals

Sir: Your article about animal

adoption in zoos (26 October)

failed to mention the real benefits

to animals, zoos and people. Whilst

funds generated via animal

adoptions contribute towards

feeding, housing and veterinary

care for zoo animals, the real

benefit is that funds which would

otherwise be used to supply this

care can be released to help zoos

carry out their primary role of

creating awareness about the

natural world and the necessity to conserve it.

Also, by adopting animals, the

public become more interested in

the natural world, and more likely

to appreciate the need to support

conservation.

It is incorrect for Les Ward of

Animal Advocates to imply that

zoos are not contributing to

conservation in the wild. This year,

the Tiger Week Appeal, the

Federation of Zoos and its

member-collectives have raised over £65,000 for wild tiger

conservation in India, Sumatra and

Siberia in partnership with Global

Tiger Patrol and Tusk Force. Since

1989, members have raised over

£5m to support 69 projects in 36

countries by supplying not only

money but also husbandry and

management skills, staff and

equipment for habitat and species

conservation in the wild.

NICK L JACKSON

Chairman, Federation of Zoos

London NW1

Lockless car

Sir: John Hembach's memories of

his lockless 1957 triumph 500

motorcycle and a crimeless 1950s

Golden Age reminded me of my

acquisition in 1968 of a 1963 left-hand

drive Simca 1000 car by an

acquaintance who sold it to me

when he left England.

This splendid little car was a

source of amazement among friends

when they realised it had no ignition

key, let alone steering lock, but a

simple rotary switch.

Apparently in rural France such unlinking civic

trust was the norm as late as 1963.

Not surprisingly the car was soon

stolen from my driveway, on the

very night it was being loaded up

for a holiday journey to its native

France. It was recovered, minus the

luggage, by the local gendarme,

who were not amused by its drive-away/take-away facility.

FRÉD S

profile

A lucky kinda guy

At his lowest ebb, a reporter asked Bill Clinton: 'Are you still relevant?' Soon afterwards, the Oklahoma bomb put the reins in his hands, writes Rupert Cornwell – and he hasn't let go

This, he swears, "is my last campaign". But watch him blow over a crowd like a force of nature, and you can't believe the man will not be out there in the year 2000 on Al Gore's behalf, or running for UN Secretary-General, for head of the county school board, or for whatever office, elective or otherwise, that may be contested by a youthful and vigorous former president of the United States of America.

Campaigning is not in Bill Clinton's blood. It is his blood. The vision of him idle is as improbable as the thought two years ago that he could now stand where he does: barring an act of God or a late swing in the voters' mood unprecedented in American history, on the brink of seemingly certain re-election, perhaps by a landslide. Not since Franklin Roosevelt in 1932 and 1936 has a Democrat won two in a row; not since Lyndon Johnson in 1964 has the party been able to dream of a triumph of such dimension. And neither was coming back from the politically dead.

Consider for a moment Clinton's plight in that wretched November of 1994. A couple of months before, he had been humiliated as his healthcare plan, the intended cornerstone of his domestic presidency, did not even make it as far as a congressional vote. Then the forces of Newt swept the land, seizing back Congress for the Republicans for the first time since the Eisenhower era. Democrats fell like flies: not a single Republican incumbent was defeated. The action was on Capitol Hill and, even worse than being hated, Clinton was ignored. A

journalist's question at a White House news conference only twisted the knife: "Sir, are you still relevant?" As events have since shown he is – for the two reasons which in conjunction will save any politician: he knew his trade, and he was lucky.

Never, never, never underestimate Bill Clinton. He had been written off before, when he lost the governorship of Arkansas in 1980 after a single term, and when Jennifer Flowers and his Vietnam non-draft threatened to destroy his presidential candidacy in February 1992. In early 1995, he again seemed doomed. But once again, he rescued himself by willpower and an ability to learn from his mistakes.

Helped by the same political consultant who featured in his home state comeback in 1982, the now infamous Dick Morris, Clinton in 1995 and 1996 similarly moved back to the political centre. And somewhere along the line he learnt his job. The turning point may be dated to 19 April 1995, the very day after his relevance was queried, when a terrorist bomb exploded in Oklahoma City.

Clinton has a vacuum cleaner for a mind, and a razor for an intellect – but perhaps his pre-eminent political quality is his ability to empathise with others. It showed when he mesmerised Newt Gingrich in their early encounters, as the Speaker would later ruefully admit. By luck or judgement, Clinton made the right call in Haiti, and a *par Americana* of kinds has been imposed on Bosnia. If in the Middle East and Ireland he has laboured with scant success, failure cannot be pinned on him.

But his greatest ally has been the economy. As he plotted the business cycle, the Almighty must have had Bill Clinton in mind. The recovery from the 1990-1991 recession showed up three months too late to save George Bush. If finally the recovery is running out of steam – as the very latest figures seem to suggest – it is doing so too late to help Bob Dole.

In between, everything has gone right. In almost every speech, Clinton intones the litany: 10 million new jobs, the budget deficit at its lowest in 20 years, interest rates low, and inflation contained.

Justifiably, too, he may claim that his \$500bn deficit-cutting package of 1993, for which not a single Congressional Republican voted, was partly responsible.

"It's the economy, stupid" was the mantra of 1992. So it is now, and so it will always be. Short of military humiliation

abroad, or devastating scandal at home, so solid an economy makes a sitting president all but invincible.

As a result, moreover, public optimism has blossomed, as a majority of voters declare the country to be "on the right track". The tranquil mood is confirmed by polls showing that no one issue is uppermost in people's minds. Crime, education, health care, jobs and taxes all have their devotees, and Clinton is on the right side of most of them. Adroitly – and here the skilful political resources – he has co-opted every popular Republican policy idea, be it law and order, welfare reform, or a balanced budget. What is left for his opponents, White House spokesmen label "extremist". All of which has made it impossible for Bob Dole to convince Americans that a change is required – not when the country is prosperous

and at peace, at home and abroad.

And so, by a process of elimination, we reach the famous question of "character", both of the man himself and the White House he leads. It is, beyond dispute, a very good question indeed.

Few doubt that Bill Clinton has strayed from the marital bed, and books have been written about Whitewater and related shenanigans in Little Rock and Washington. A proclivity to be all things to all men and a craving to please are not ingredients of moral constancy. Even now that the presidential bubble has closed around him, Clinton can appear slippery and shifty, the "Slick Willie" of old, as hard to nail down as a jelly to a wall. Few administrations have attracted such ethical contro-

versy, be it over the firing of the White House travel office staff or the plundering of confidential files from the FBI – and, most recently, campaign contributions as dubious as they are large, from Indonesians, Buddhist nuns and others.

"Where's the outrage?" asks a bewildered Dole, reciting his litany of 30 Clinton associates and administration officials under investigation, indictment or in jail. Bill Clinton may have no convictions; the joke runs, but you can't say that about his friends.

But once again Republican politicians mislead the people. Ever since George Bush was sinking to defeat four years ago, they have tried to make the Clinton character the defining issue. But constant hammering makes a man hard of hearing. Americans know full well that Bill Clinton is no angel. But four years of congressional

hearings, muckraking journalism and special prosecutors have failed to produce damning proof of anything.

The populace, in short, has better things to worry about – as the second candidates' debate in San Diego proved.

Despite repeated invitations from Bob Dole, not one of 20 questions from the audience addressed the matter of Clinton's character.

Maybe Whitewater will mar his second term. Maybe Hillary will be indicted. Maybe even as Ross Perot proclaims, 1996 will be a rerun of 1972, when an incumbent president re-elected by a landslide was forced from office by scandal.

More prosaically but more

probably, if the rule of re-elected presidents holds, his second term will be a disappointment.

But that is for tomorrow. This is Bill Clinton's last election, and he's going out in style.

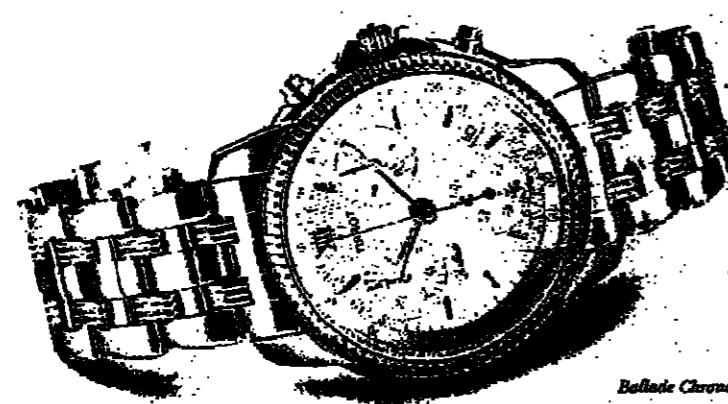


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Michael Howard is not Michael Howard



Miles
Kington

I recently speculated on the reasons why Michael Howard behaves the way he does – ie, like a man who is deliberately trying to bring the Home Office into disrepute. I came to no conclusion. Unlike the anonymous writer of a letter to me, who claims to know the truth.

What was very interesting about this letter is that it came from a mole deep inside the Home Office. I have no clue as to who he is. I have had the letter tested for fingerprints, DNA,

semtex, gelatin, tallow and bull semen, etc, but whoever sent the letter is a professional and there is no trace of any clue.

Except, of course, the contents of the letter itself. I leave you to judge that for yourselves. Here it is.

Dear Mr Kington,
You have correctly observed that Mr Michael Howard has, over the years, done less than justice to the post of Home Secretary.

He has behaved wildly and erratically. He has fired heads of the Prison Service on a whim and paid them compensation under duress.

He has seemed to think that prison is the only answer to crime, just when everyone else seems to conclude that prison actually causes crime, and has embarked on mad schemes to build more prisons at huge expense, thus causing more misery and suffering and needless retribution.

He has evolved his policies in order to satisfy the baying for blood of the mob in the street, until even the mob in the street stands abashed and quiet at Mr

Howard's vindictiveness. He has tried to take the law into his own hands so often that it has taken the combined strength of all the judges to get it back out of his hands again.

You probably know all this by now yourself. It is not news to you. But there is something else you do not know, which is known only to a favoured few at the Home Office.

Here it is.
As you know, Mr Howard is not afraid of criticism. In fact he thrives on it. The ruder people are, the more he grins and the more he thinks of ridiculous new policies. Like many people who are convinced of their own righteousness, and you may well think of John Birt in this connection, they think that opposition to their ideas proves they are right.

But Mr Michael Howard has a weakness. He is afraid of physical assault. Indeed, like many another weak but self-inflated man, and you may well think of Hitler and Mussolini in this connection, he is afraid of assassination.

Yes, he genuinely fears

that there may be an attempt

on his life. Perhaps by someone banged up too long in jail and newly released; perhaps by some cut-throat judge maddened by Howard's insensitivity. But Michael Howard genuinely believes that there are people out there mad enough to get him.

To this end, he has hired, not bodyguards or security men, but lookalikes Michael Howards! Ridiculous though it sounds, he has sought out several men who are the spitting image of him, down to the moon eyes and the cumbersomely mad smile and the big chin and the tasteless spectacles, and paid them to appear on all occasions when he was due to appear in public: to open new prisons, for instance, or detention centres for immigrants, or boot camp sales ...

Every time you thought you saw Michael Howard on the podium on the news, it was actually a lookalike Michael Howard!

But there is worse to come. We at the Home Office now think that Mr Howard has actually been assassinated, as he did.

Michael Howard?

I will let you know what we decide.

Yours etc ...

Personally, I can't wait.

We think the crime was committed by one of these Michael Howard lookalikes, who promptly stepped into his shoes and carried on doing the same job – ie, looking and sounding like Michael Howard – but at a much higher salary.

Whoever the man is who has been masquerading as the Home Secretary for the past year or two, he is a brilliant impersonator.

The only snag is that he is not a brilliant Home Secretary. In fact, as you have noticed, he is an increasingly erratic and hopeless Home Secretary, which is what you would expect from an unemployed actor.

That is the situation as it stands at present. A situation for which there is no precedent. Frankly, we are at a loss what to do.

Should we unmask the Home Secretary? Should we have him locked away? Should we even have him assassinated, as he did?

Michael Howard?

I will let you know what we decide.

Yours etc ...

Personally, I can't wait.

مكتبة من الأحمد

A hundred years of measured judgements

Newspapers rarely look back at the judgements they made on great events of the past, perhaps because it is usually too embarrassing. We get things wrong. Given the time-scale to which newspapers are written and the range of subjects tackled, perhaps our record is understandable. But what about the more measured judgements that we print in the form of book reviews? Books, despite the explosion of electronic media, remain the main clearing house for new ideas in the world, and the role of reviewers is, literally, critical in enabling that great clearing house to operate.

But reviews do something more. They tell us not only about the ideas in the books themselves, but they give us a glimpse of the society into which they were launched. So to read old reviews is not just to enjoy the game of "did they get it right?", but to catch a feel for the whole culture of the age.

One hundred years ago *The New York Times* launched a new section on books. It had published reviews before, but these had been scattered through the news columns. The paper's new owner, Adolf Ochs, decided that they should be brought together in a special section. To celebrate that decision, the paper has now republished a selection of its book reviews over the last 100 years, which, thanks to a friend in New York, has just winged its way to me.

And what a thrill it is. Let's apply three tests: what did the paper's reviewers say about what is arguably the most important political tract of the century; about the popular novel that was made into the century's most successful film; and about what many would claim was the definitive American novel of the century?

The first is *My Battle*, the book we know better by its German title, *Mein Kampf*, by Adolf Hitler. The judgement on this (the English language version, published in 1933) actually stands up very well. The reviewer, James Gerard, sketches the troubled history of Germany from the Thirty Years' War to the humiliation in 1918, and argues that Hitler's rise can only be explained in that context. "Germany is a camp, unarmed, perhaps but one great military camp, psychologically, if not materially, ready for a way of conquest and revenge. Hitler could not have attained such power unless he represented the thoughts and aspirations of a majority of the population."

The reviewer acknowledged what Hitler had achieved: "Hitler is doing much for Germany by his unification of the Germans, his destruction of communism, his training of the young, his creation of a Spartan State, his curbing of parliamentary government, so unsuited to the German character; his protection of the right of private property are all good; and after all, what the Germans do in their own territory is their own business, except for one thing—the persecution and practical expulsion of the Jews."

Some of the tone, knowing what we know now, might seem a little odd, but the reviewer did—right back in 1933—correctly identify the potential ghastly catastrophe of Hitler's rule: what we now call the Holocaust.

To his great credit, the reviewer went back



Hamish McRae

From Adolf Hitler to Scarlett O'Hara, *The New York Times* book reviews provide a century's worth of insight into the spirit of the day

but does not really spot its utter specialness. It is "more a long short story than a novel". Fitzgerald himself is "the steadiest performer and the most entertaining" of the new novelists, but he is one of a bunch. The reviewer admires Fitzgerald's skill and craft; he notes the remarkable way in which the background of the central character, Jay Gatsby, is hardly sketched, but his obsession with Daisy Buchanan is explicitly identified. Clark can see that there is some factor X in the novel, something that sets it apart, but his conclusion: "A curious book, a mystical, glamorous story of today" suggests that he does not really know what that is. (But, then again, do we now?)

My own score for these three reviews would be a slightly flawed hit, a bulls-eye, and a near miss. But all are of the highest quality. These three tests surely show that this bit of the great clearing house of the world of ideas was doing its job then, just as I hope it is still doing its job now.

And the books? To their great credit, the editors of this collection also tell us of some of the less successful reviews that the paper has carried in the last 100 years. Reviewers managed to savage, among others, H G Wells' *The Invisible Man*, E M Forster's *Howard's End*, J D Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*, and most recently, waited a year before gracing Robert James Waller's *The Bridges of Madison County* with any review at all.

But getting things wrong surely doesn't matter. What matters is to take writing seriously. Does an British or American paper offer this quality of thought today? Is there not too much clever, clever glitz, mutual back-scratching, point-scoring, and the settling of private squabbles? I sometimes fear so.

My generation are wondering when we can afford to retire. The younger GPs are concerned with maximising their profits. None of us has any incentive to put patient care first
— Jonathan Ferrier, Oxford doctor

Does this matter? The answer is emphatically yes. In the 1980s, general practice was the preferred branch of medicine for many of the brightest, most able and enthusiastic young doctors. Since the Kenneth Clarke reforms in 1990, there has been a dramatic reversal of the situation, so that now many GP training places remain unfilled.

In Oxford, usually seen as an appealing and attractive place to live and work, 20 per cent of training

places are unfilled. Oxford used to have about 90 applicants for six training places on its three-year scheme for new GPs. This year, it had only eight applicants. After interviews, four people were appointed. Other training places are filled by graduates from other European countries, who take advantage of our excellent training schemes but who then go back to their own countries to practise. The picture is the same around Britain.

With older GPs working part-time or taking early retirement, and an inadequate number of doctors entering general practice, the shortage is becoming acute. Some inner-city practices cannot fill their vacancies, and have to resort to reducing their lists, while we in the more fortunate provinces may have posts unfilled for many months.

So what happens if there are not enough GPs? You only have to look at the dental service to see the answer. People will be unable to get an NHS doctor, and will have to turn to seeing private GPs (at £50 an appointment). Doctors will suddenly become a lot wealthier: the government of the day will no longer have to pay for health out of taxes (at about £300 a head), and the public will need to take out private insurance to include general practice care at about £1,000 a head.

The present government has suddenly woken up to the situation and produced a White Paper suggesting in very broad terms a few alternatives. Some work can be taken over by nurses and other professions. Some GPs may be encouraged to work as salaried doctors without the paper-

If only everyone were as good as me ...

by Suzanne Moore



I blame teachers, parents, bishops, Royals, the underclass, the middle class, politicians ... and all who know me'



paper, provided a good list of where we might start.

Yet this latest moral panic points to some deeper changes in society. First, the middle classes are now suffering what were traditionally working-class insecurities. The certainties about jobs, homes, even spouses for life are no more; but they need something to mark their distance from the rabid underclass.

Second, and this is now a common observation, politicians have less and less actual power to effect change in a global economy and can only fiddle at the edges. This means they need to come up with a big idea that doesn't cost anything. As the

American election is showing, some even dispense with big ideas altogether except the one that a downsized government won't even bother making promises it can't keep.

The result is that a terrible burden is put on civil society to pick up the pieces that neither the leftist nor conventional party politics will. No wonder, then, that we are questioning what it takes to make society more civil.

Third, we are still living in the aftermath of Thatcherism, which changed the way we think about the relationship between the individual and society, the private and the public. She politicised private aspiration and privatised what had for-

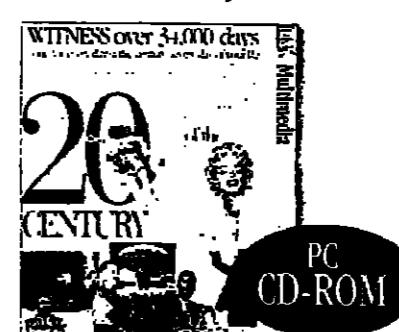
merly been the public sphere; so that health, education and, yes, morality became reduced to a matter of individual choice rather than collective need.

Into this morass there comes a new sense of collectivism, epitomised by Tony Blair, who is aware that much of the population remains personally liberal

ON THIS DAY 1948



Government announce jam rationing to end 1st November 1948



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but fiscally conservative. His collective instincts cannot be articulated in any way materially—this smacks too much of socialism—so they inhabit the vaguer (and cheaper) realm of spirituality.

I am not saying the solutions to all moral problems are purely economic, but to offer waffle about values to teachers whose classroom roofs are falling in is worse than useless. We care or we don't, and we show how much we care by how much we are prepared to pay for provision, not just for our own children but for other people's too. While we may not seek to redistribute wealth, we still want to distribute our version of morality to the moral have-nots.

Those who feel that this rabble is a dreadfully low-life bunch of moral relativists clearly do not live in the same world as I do. Most children seem to me naturally moral, most people try to lead good lives. But then if you want a return to moral absolutes and law-and-order policies that are effective, perhaps you live in a town swinned with Kabul. There is nothing more frightening than moral fundamentalism of whatever persuasion. We live in a secular and liberal society in which women's lives have changed enormously in the past 50 years. Family life has changed, too. If we want to draw up a few redefinitions that's fine, but who are they for? And what should they be?

Nothing I have heard over the past week or so on family life has defined a family quite so clearly to me as the following: "The 'family' group whatever its size must stay together throughout the journey. The members of the 'family' group need not be related." This bit of philosophy comes not from those agonising about other people's families and their appalling lack of morals but from a British Rail leaflet explaining who is entitled to use a Family Railcard.

I'd vote for this definition. Mind you, I'd vote for anyone whose election pledge was to ban the word "moral" from their pronouncements. The word has already been emptied of all meaning but those intent on claiming the moral high-ground have failed to notice, so busy are they wittering on to each other about how bad other people are. Down in the lowlands, the mess of everyday life may get stuck on your shoes and some souls may be demoralised but it's not "remoralisation" they are after but the chance to lead a decent life. If anything is immoral it's the idea that mere talk will give them that chance.

Who wants to be a family doctor?

A couple of weeks ago, I led a discussion group of first-year Oxford medical students who had just completed a two-week attachment to GP surgeries. In previous years, the students had come back full of enthusiasm after their first contacts with patients in the community. They were impressed with the quality of medicine that the GPs were practising, the consultation skills needed and the involvement of so many skilled people who make up the primary care teams.

This year, there was a difference. Certainly the students were as intelligent and articulate as ever, but my group spent the first 45 minutes discussing the finances and organisation of general practice. They had to be positively dragged into talking about patients or medicine.

Is this because we have been selecting the wrong people to do medicine? Well, that is possible, but I don't think so. Students still don't go into medicine to be entrepreneurs or managers. I am afraid they are reflecting what is occupying the minds of most GPs.

My generation, in our fifties, have paid off our mortgages and are wondering when we can afford to retire. The younger GPs are concerned with maximising their profits. None of us has any incentive to put patient care first.

Does this matter? The answer is emphatically yes. In the 1980s, general practice was the preferred branch of medicine for many of the brightest, most able and enthusiastic young doctors. Since the Kenneth Clarke reforms in 1990, there has been a dramatic reversal of the situation, so that now many GP training places remain unfilled.

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business-orientated practices against the small, friendly ones and created a bureaucracy out of all proportion to the benefits.

The public has also become more demanding in recent years, which may be no bad thing, but the media have certainly aggravated public worries by sensationalising certain medical news items. Whatever the causes, extra resources are needed to cope with that demand.

GP income has fallen in real terms over the past three years, but apart from that, the work required for the same income has increased. This has been achieved by the nifty manoeuvre of removing a portion of our income and then giving it back to us provided we set targets for cervical smears, immunisations, health promotion and postgraduate education.

Most of these are worthy causes, but if more work is required from people who are already working long hours, then it should be accompanied by the extra funds to employ the extra staff necessary.

Although paid considerably less than doctors in most other European countries, British GPs have always been among the better-paid in our own society, and none of us went into medicine for the money. Job satisfaction rather than ever-increasing stress is what is required to avert a rapidly developing crisis.

The author has been a GP in Oxfordshire for more than 20 years, a GP trainer, course organiser of the Oxford GP training scheme, and a member of the local medical committee.

business & city

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Watchdog bars Fidelity arm from new business

JILL TREASOR
Banking Correspondent

Fidelity Brokerage Services, the UK private client stock broking arm of the giant US fund management group, has been barred by the Securities and Futures Authority, its regulator, from taking on any new business for the next three months.

FBS will also pay compensation if any of its 30,000 UK clients have suffered losses as a result of five months of glitches caused by its new computer system. The SFA has given FBS until the end of January to correct its problems and will take "further steps" at that time if necessary. FBS will have to provide monthly progress reports to regulator.

The highly unusual move is further bad news for the City which has been stunned in recent months by a series of scandals at highly reputable firms such as Morgan Grenfell Asset Management and Jardine Fleming.

The SFA said: "FBS has entered into undertakings with the SFA not to take on new direct customers or introduce new business services until SFA is satisfied with its customer service performance.

"The SFA will closely monitor the arrangements announced by the firm to ensure that customers who have suffered as a direct consequence of the operational problems are adequately compensated," the regulator added.

Phil West, marketing manager at FBS, said: "850 of its clients had complained about their accounts. But he conceded that, at times, all of the firm's clients would have been affected by the problems. "Where errors have been made we will pay compensation," he said.

Errors include delays with share dividend payments into

accounts and the quarterly payment of income into self-select PEP accounts.

"In the early months there were problems with the timeliness of mailing statements to clients and in some cases there was some information on those statements which was not correct," Mr West said. He estimated the total compensation bill would be less than £1,000 per client.

Most compensation will involve rectifying lost interest or reimbursing bank charges incurred from accounts going overdrawn as a result of delayed payments, although payments could cover inconvenience caused.

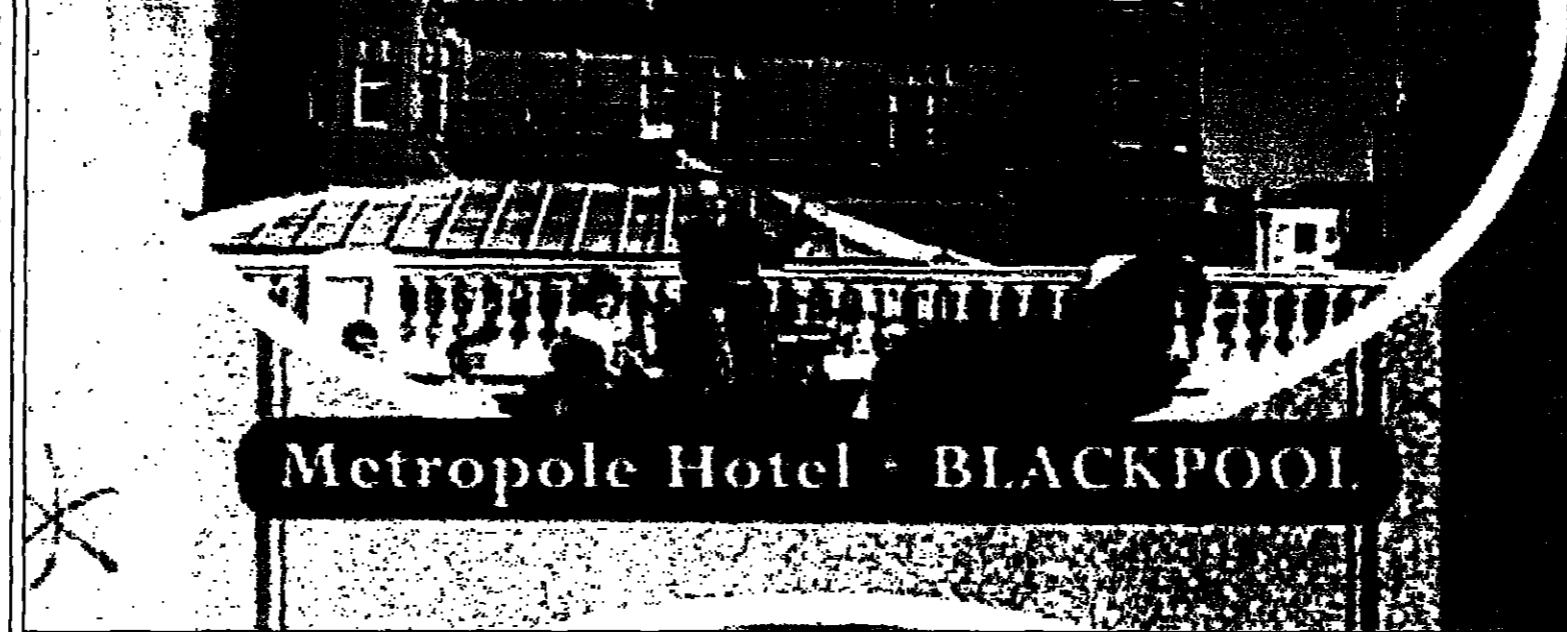
"We recognise that where clients have been severely inconvenienced and have experienced problems over a long time we would make a gesture of goodwill," Mr West said. "We wouldn't expect any client to suffer a loss as a result of this."

He calculated that most compensation payments would be tens of pounds with a few running into the hundreds. Compensation will take the form of waiving fee income or one-off cash payments.

According to letters to *Investors Chronicle*, the trade magazine, FBS lost £1,300 for one of its clients in Leicestershire as a result of three separate errors. Another complaint, dating back to May, was still not resolved at the start of October.

The embarrassing situation had already forced FBS to stop advertising for new business in August. The computer system was introduced in April and supplied by Synergo, a computer vendor. Mr West declined to say what, if any, action would be taken against Synergo but said the head of information technology at FBS had been given new responsibilities and that a replacement was being flown in from the US.

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Postcard from the seaside: The Glasgow-based hotel group yesterday confirmed its acquisition of the five Lomro Metropole hotels for £327m

Stakis steps up City fees battle

PETER RODGERS
and TOM STEVENSON

Schroders yesterday stepped up a City battle to fend off a monopoly inquiry into the fees charged for raising capital for British industry, with the first rights issue to include an auction of underwriting commitments.

The auction of up to one-third of the sub-underwriting saved £400,000 in costs for the Glasgow-based hotel group Stakis, which earlier in the day confirmed the acquisition of Lomro's five Metropole hotels for £327m, part-funded by a £22m rights issue. Stakis also forecast profits for the year to September of not less than £30.6m.

By introducing an auction, defenders of the City underwriting

move, as adviser to Stakis, is that the Office of Fair Trading is nearing completion of an investigation of the City's fixed underwriting commissions, which could lead to an inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The OFT investigation was prompted by concerns that merchant banks and investment institutions always charge the same fixed rates for rights issues by companies, regardless of the size or type of issue.

This has led to widespread accusations that an unofficial cartel is in operation, raising the cost of capital to British industry.

The auction was to include up to 33 per cent of the sub-underwriting for the issue but

Schroders said afterwards that

system hope to produce evidence of new flexibility in commissions and fees, to back the maintenance of the status quo.

Initial reaction was that the savings for Stakis, while less than 10 per cent, were good considering the size of the issue and the market's attitude to hotels.

Recently, the Association of British Insurers and the National Association of Pension Funds wrote to their members advising them that investment banks were considering an auction system, and suggesting they back the idea if it were presented to them.

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Independent two weeks ago, the deal, which the company says will be earnings-enhancing from the first year of acquisition, marks a big leap for the hotels, casinos and leisure clubs group.

The four-for-seven rights issue at 82p, which will raise £222m towards the cost of the deal, includes a pro rata reduction in Schroders' own fees to match the cut by the institutions.

The bids for the auction portion of the sub-underwriting

sought a commission of just over 1 per cent compared with the 1.5 per cent fixed fee for a six-week underwriting period which applied to the rest.

The hotel deal was welcomed by analysts who saw scope for material improvements in the chain's profits under new ownership. First forecast in the

Comment, page 25

Wace shares crash on third profits warning

NIGEL COPE

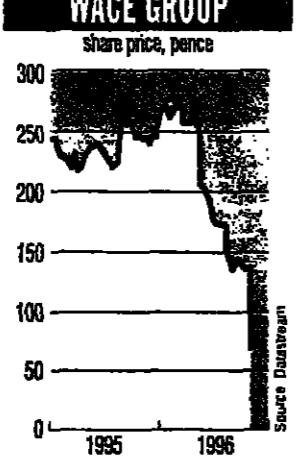
The catalogue of disaster at Wace, the printing company, continued yesterday when it issued its third profits warning of the year, together with a wholesale restructuring and an additional £9m of exceptional charges. The company will now record an estimated £2m loss for the year after what amounts to a "catastrophic" sinking of the accounts.

Wace shares crashed almost 50 per cent to 69.5p on the announcement. They have dropped from 279p since March.

Wace blamed the latest setback on poorer than expected sales in September and October. This followed a warning at the group's annual meeting in May and again in the half-year results announcement in August that consistent sales had failed to materialise. "We have highlighted the problems as soon as they have come to light but the performance in the last three months has been disappointing," said Wace finance director Stephen Puckett.

In August Wace had reported a 60 per cent slump in half-year profits to £4.2m but chief executive Trevor Grice made a bullish pronouncement on future prospects.

WACE GROUP



in the US, three businesses in Grand Rapids, Memphis and New York will be sold. All Wace's US operations will now be concentrated in Chicago, with five existing sites streamlined into just one.

The total number of jobs lost will be around 90. The £9m restructuring charge is in addition to the £4m charged during the first half.

The company said it intended to focus on digital imaging, in what it described as the growth areas of electronic publishing and on-line digital media.

Wace was one of the glamour stocks of the 1980s when it was run by youthful chief executive John Clegg. Trevor Grice took over in 1992 and won some praise for cutting costs and reducing debts.

However, its recent record has been one of continual disappointment. The company said yesterday that it had spoken to some of its institutional investors who were "not particularly happy".

There were queries earlier this year about the company's accounts, though there was no suggestion of wrongdoing. It is understood the accounts have since been given the all-clear by the Financial Reporting Review Panel.

CBI says no to two-tier boards

MICHAEL HARRISON

Business leaders yesterday launched an attack on Labour's plan to give employees and customers a say in the running of companies by allowing the introduction of Continental-style two-tier boards.

A report by the Confederation of British Industry says that allowing stakeholders to be represented on company boards would raise conflicts of interest, blur lines of responsibility and

create barriers between shareholders and management.

The CBI also warned that creating a two-tier structure – whereby a supervisory board of directors monitors the performance of the executive management board – would not deliver greater protection for investors while robbing companies of the cohesion that the British system of unitary boards produces.

Martin Broughton, chief executive of BAT Industries and chairman of the CBI's compa-

nies committee, said: "In the UK the unitary board is still the best way to make sure that directors are held accountable for the performance of their company.

The unitary board encourages high standards of direction and oversight of the company by combining the outside experience and independence of non-executive directors with the operating knowledge of the executive directors."

Directors, he added, had to take into account the interests

of customers, employees, suppliers and local communities as well as shareholders. But if there were to be two-tier boards with wider stakeholder representation, how would truly representative individuals be found, who would select them and how could they be trusted not to pursue their own agendas at the expense of the company's interest?

The report is being sent to the Hampers Committee on corporate governance, set up to review the workings of the Cadbury code.

One analyst said if there had been a major problem, the Government would have referred the acquisition before it was completed in August.

However, another said the news had come as "a bit of a blow". The company had neglected its new car sales side this year and this could put a question mark over the strategy of moving into buses, she said.

Software snags hold up pension redress

NIC CICUTI

A central information library, touted by the Securities and Investments Board as a key part of the mechanism for giving redress to pension transfer victims, is barely working more than nine months after its launch.

Bacon & Woodrow, the firm responsible for setting up the library, with strong SIB backing, admitted yesterday that crucial information asked for by companies in a bid to improve response rates from policyholders.

The SIB's move is likely to meet with some scepticism from observers, who will point to its failure to deal with the Prudential, a company it regulates directly.

Prudential has more than 40,000 policyholders. It has so far offered redress to just 10 of them.

A senior life company executive

said yesterday the software problems in large measure explain the reluctance of Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, to set new deadlines for compensating victims of the scandal.

In a PIA document obtained by *The Independent*, Ms Bowe says: "Fresh targets might simply provoke cynicism and downright disbelief."

A regulatory source said: "I feel sorry for [the PIA] really. They know the software is not there and won't be for a long while. But they can't admit it, because that would mean admitting people won't get redress for a long while yet, which is not the message they want to get out."

The library system was heavily promoted by Andrew Large, the SIB's chairman, in January, when he admitted that barely a handful of people who were mis-sold a pension had been compensated.

A pensions central library was to enable a database of occupational pension schemes to be built up. Scheme administrators would only have to provide information to one source, accessed in turn by any insurer paying a fee.

Andrew Winckler, SIB chief, told delegates at the National Association of Pension Funds conference in May that the City regulator "was dependent on the software houses. It is taking far longer than initially assumed."

central library is one of the important keys to faster progress".

However, Ian Edwards, a partner at Bacon & Woodrow, said yesterday that four separate calculating systems were needed to meet the software requirements of the companies wanting to make use of the library.

So far one is operational, another is in the "final" stages of development, a third is now with the software supplier, while work on the fourth has not started.

Of the many dozens of companies who might use the library, some 20 are currently doing so, Mr Edwards said. "We are dependent on the software houses. It is taking far longer than initially assumed."

Warburg forced to lift prices on Kepit sale

SBC Warburg has been forced to raise prices realised on the

sale of a £300m portfolio of shares after a complaint from Merrill Lynch on behalf of its client, the Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation Trust.

The shares were sold as part of the liquidation of Kepit, an investment trust specialising in European stocks. Warburg chose the market turmoil that surrounded Wednesday's surprise increase in interest rates to execute the trade. Later in the day prices rose back to more advantageous levels.

Merrill Lynch, which is ad-

STOCK MARKETS					
FTSE 100	Dow Jones*	Nikkei			
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3850	8110	2000			
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business

Pilkington remains under the cosh

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Roger Leverton has done a splendid job in the four years he has been at the helm of Pilkington. He has focused the company on what it does best, tried to add some value to its commodity glass businesses and shaken up the previously sleepy family culture. He has been rewarded with a trading background to make the strongest manager sweep.

Profits of £75m in the first six months to September were pretty much in line with expectations. Unfortunately, those expectations have been progressively massaged downwards in recent months.

It was only a few months ago that the consensus forecast for the full year was refined in from over £250m to under £220m. Now anyone looking for more than £200m is being taken to one side and steered lower.

Those downward revisions matter for a company like Pilkington because its shares tend to be valued on the basis of peak expected earnings. If the timing of those top-of-the-cycle earnings is shifted outwards or the quantum reduced the calculations used to justify the current price can be quickly rendered worthless.

No surprise then that Pilkington's shares have suffered so much from the growing realisation that the building markets of Europe remain severely under the cosh. At yesterday's close of 171p, the shares have fallen by a fifth since March and underperformed the rest of the market by a quarter.

In a commodity market like float glass, reduced demand and overcapacity can have a dramatic impact on price and a decline in overall volumes in Europe of 3 per cent was reflected in a fall in price of up to 25 per cent in Germany, the worst-hit market. The good news is that the downturn would appear to have bottomed and prices are back to where they were six months ago, even if that still represents a sizeable decline from a year back.

The dismal performance of European construction has cast an unfortunate shadow over the rest of the group which is actually performing quite well. The North American automotive market has been chugging along nicely for three years now and shows no signs of slowing. Even in Europe, the building malaise has not affected the car market where the consolidation of former Italian state owned glass maker STV helped sales double in the half.

On the basis of forecasts of £190m for the year to next March and £230m in the following 12 months, the shares stand on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 16, falling to about 13. For a company that should rightly trade on

a significant discount to the rest of the market, to compensate for the volatility of its earnings, that does not appear unduly cheap and there is little support from a yield of under 4 per cent.

US weighs on Body Shop

Body Shop was sounding a lot more positive yesterday even though its problems in the cut-throat US market show no signs of abating. Sales of facepacks and all-over body lotions are walking off the shelves in Asia, apparently. And the Australian business has boomeranged from loss to profit in the past year.

These developments were behind a 30 per cent hike in profits to £1.8m in the six months to August. With the progressive dividend policy continuing with a near-40 per cent rise to 1.5p to 200p, management is particularly bullish about prospects in Asia where there are 202 shops. This market ac-

counts for more than half group profits and new stores are opening rapidly. The feeling is that Body Shop is viewed as a luxury goods retailer in the Far East which may enable it to edge up on certain products such as its new skincare range.

But encouraging though this is, the real bellwether of Body Shop sentiment is its performance in America. Unfortunately for Body Shop investors the company's performance there is still poor. Group like-for-like sales were up by 1 per cent across all markets. But they fell 4 per cent in the US and are 7 per cent down in the eight weeks since the end of the half-year. US losses rose from £2.4m to £3.4m in the period.

The problem remains ferocious competition coupled with a product range and store portfolio not as good as it might be. Body Shop is up against rivals such as Bath & Body Works and Garden Botanica and customers are used to frequent changes of product and regular promotions. Rivals have been developing, Body Shop has not.

The company has recruited Steen Kanter, who introduced Ikea to the US, to run its US division. The store open-

ing programme has been slowed to enable management to concentrate on getting the existing business right. In the UK profits were flat but the Body Shop Direct home selling programme has been extended to 170 stores with more than 1,000 consultants.

Analysts are forecasting full-year profits of £38m which puts the shares on a forward rating of 17. About right.

Worst may be over for Arjo

The collapse in paper prices since the middle of last year has hammered Arjo Wiggins Appleton. Persistent over-optimism about the state of the European market, and a restructuring plan that is seen by analysts as too little too late, have added to the group's problems as far as the City is concerned. After a switch-back ride, the shares, up 4p to 165p yesterday, are back almost exactly where they were at the start of the year.

The latest bout of cautious optimism is based on hopes that the worst may be over. Yesterday the group said sales in the first nine months of the year were up 3.9 per cent to £2.7bn, including a 2.8 per cent gain in the third quarter. The bold figures are flattered by last year's acquisitions. Stripping out distortions, sales were down 7.4 per cent in the nine months and 3.2 per cent in the latest quarter.

Given price falls which saw pulp slump from \$1,000 a tonne to \$400 between last summer and this spring, that is not too bad a result and there are clear signs the market has bottomed out.

While turnover slipped from £895m to £841m in the seasonally weaker third quarter, volumes were slightly ahead. Although there has been some restoration of stocks since February and March, the company denies seeing any significant stock-building amongst its European customers.

Given previous failures to read the market, that view may prove optimistic and the European arena clearly remains highly competitive.

But the problem for Arjo remains that its key carbonless and thermal papers are in long-term decline, requiring continuous restructuring. Saint Louis, the dominant 40 per cent shareholder, has been wielding the big stick, but it is difficult to see where the excitement will come from unless it sells out. Profits could rise from £130m this year to £210m next, putting the shares on a forward p/e of 10. Fair value.

Surge in oil prices helps lacklustre Shell out of trouble

Chris Goddard
Business Correspondent

Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil giant, announced another set of lacklustre results yesterday as the unexpected surge in the price of oil helped to offset crashing chemical earnings and the continuing drain from the world-wide petro price war.

The group's net income in the third quarter of the year rose by 26 per cent to £1.33bn. However, the improvement was entirely due to a 74 per cent jump in earnings from oil exploration and production to £59m.

Underlying income from refining and marketing activities slumped by 27 per cent to £422m while chemicals earnings dived by 40 per cent to £189m.

The figures, which were slightly below expectations, disappointed the markets. Shares in Shell Transport, the UK side of the group, fell by 13p to £10.07.

John Tolster, an oil analyst from investment bankers Soci-

ete Generale, explained: "Yet again it's a mixed bag. It's disappointing that oil prices are so much and oil sales were so strong and yet profits on those businesses could have been better. These results don't compare particularly favourably with the US oil companies."

Oil prices between June and September averaged \$20.90 a barrel, some \$4.75 higher than during the same period a year ago. At one stage the price of Brent crude hit \$23.50. The impact of the oil price surge was particularly marked in the United States, where income from Shell's businesses more than doubled to \$155m. Earnings in the rest of the world were up by 62 per cent.

The figures also disclosed that Shell remained some way off meeting its internal target for the rate of return earned on its assets. The return on capital of 11 per cent in the 12 months to the end of September compares with a target of 12 per cent, though an improvement on the 10.4 per cent figure for the year to end of June.

Medeva wins court case

Magnus Grindon

House of Lords, we feel even more confident."

The group still faces a separate patent infringement action over Hepagene filed in 1993 by Pasteur-Merieux, a French drug company. However, it had not proceeded "expeditiously" with the claim, she said, and a trial date had not yet been requested or set.

The drug, which is still under development, was acquired for a little over £5m by Medeva in 1992 from a group of Swiss and German scientists known as Epitec.

Biogen, whose own Hepatitis B vaccine is licensed to SmithKline Beecham and Merck, won an initial action against Medeva in the High Court in

1993. But the House of Lords ruled yesterday that Biogen's patent was invalid in the UK.

Medeva said it hoped to announce the results of phase three trials of Hepagene as a vaccine in January, with phase two proof of principal tests on its effectiveness as a treatment due by the end of this year. Estimates suggest that around 30 million people in the world carry the Hepatitis B virus are highly infectious.

Biogen's chief executive, Jim Vincent, said: "Although we expect to continue receiving our UK royalties of less than a million dollars annually based on the surviving Hepatitis B patent, we are clearly disappointed by today's decision."

CableTel to offer 'free' channels

Matthew Horwitz
Media Editor

"free" – Sky One, UK Gold and music station VH-1, the sister station to MTV. Thereafter, consumers will be able to choose from a range of cable TV packages. The offering is radically different from the usual large basic package that cable companies provide.

Channel One and Carlton Select are offered to all CableTel TV subscribers as part of its basic tier. But the radical retiming will mean many customers will be able to choose a far narrower range of channels, lead-

ing to fears that some broadcasters will find it difficult to build audiences.

CableTel is expected to argue that its "free" tier will be offered to those who elect to take telephone only, and that these customers are not, in fact, cable TV subscribers.

CableTel's retiming follows last week's announcement by Nynex CableComms that it would offer a range of telephone and cable TV packages as part of its own attempt to target its products more effectively.

The industry is in the midst of an inventory of its channels, in order to retool and to make way for new services. Many broadcasters are concerned that niche channels will suffer if too many cable operators move toward à la carte or so-called "small basic" packages.

Further re-jigging of cable TV offerings is expected in the wake of the four-way merger last week of Nynex, Bell Canada Media, Videotron and Mercury, creating the nation's largest cable company.

Price set for Thomas and Brands Hatch

Nigel Cope

This values the company at £34.3m. The flotation will raise £9.3m which will be used to reduce bank borrowings and to fund investment in new catering, retail and entertainment facilities at the tracks.

The Brit Allcroft company, which produces "Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends", will be priced at 130p a share, valuing the company at £30m. The placing involves 8.5 million shares with dealings due to start on November 6.

Brands Hatch Leisure, which operates the famous Kent racing track as well as others at Snetterton, Oulton Park and Cadwell Park, will be priced at 157p.

Brands Hatch Leisure recorded pre-tax profits of £1.1m on sales of £11.7m in the year to December 1995. It is forecasting profits of not less than £2.5m for the current year. On the basis of the pro forma earnings per share, the share will trade on a forward rating of 16. Dealings are expected to commence on November 7.

Four directors are intending to subscribe for 410,000 shares at the flotation price.

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FreeCall 0500 800 125

Prices and savings compared against BT's local rate. Max 240 mins, weekday working hours. Calls are subject to a minimum charge of £1.25. Call-back services are available for a subscription fee of £1.50 per quarter. All prices quoted are VAT.

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Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Air London Int (F)	2.16m (1.07m)	14.3p (7.8p)	4.1p (5p)
Barclay Holdings (F)	1.5m (1.38m)	13.7m (1.05m)	65.7p (3.16p)
Body Shop Int (F)	1.11m (1.05m)	8.1p (8.1p)	1.5p (2.8p)
Capita Group (F)	1.2m (768,000)	-50,000 (-51,000)	0.07p (0.45p)
Chelverton Int (F)	1.7m (1.1m)	-97,257 (-102,574)	-1.65p (0.42p)
GlobalLink Holdings (F)	7.3m (7.5m)	157,000 (-2,220)	16 (-11p)
Just Group (F)	7.72m (775,000)	-216,000 (-161,000)	0.14p (0.11p)
Interwest (F)	6m (5.5m)	574,000 (461,000)	8.43p (5.17p)
Patagonia (F)	1.5m (1.3m)	3.2p (3.0p)	1.75p (1.75p)
Power Investments (F) 4.45m (4m)	7.5m (2.82m)	12.91p (5.95p)	nil
Torstone Group (F)	23.8m (6.1m)	-1,500 (-2,110)	3.05p (4.41p)
F - Final *10 - Interim **10 - Pre-month			

Prices listre rouble

US presidential elections this month could result in a considerable softening in oil prices by the end of the year.

The biggest surprise from shell came from the 5 per cent most to its production volumes, which was far higher than most other oil firms and was about double the world growth rate. Gas production rose even further, by 18 per cent.

Shell's troubled refining operations were hit once again by stiff petrol price competition. The increase in petrol prices over the past few months has failed to keep pace with the recent oil price, resulting in weaker refining profit margins.

The figures also disclosed that Shell remained some way off meeting its internal target for the rate of return earned on its assets. The return on capital of 11 per cent in the 12 months to the end of September compares with a target of 12 per cent, though an improvement on the 10.3 per cent figure for the year to end of June.

irt case,

1993. But the House of Lords ruled yesterday that Biogen's patent was invalid in the UK. Medeva said it hoped to announce the results of phase three trials of Hepagene as a vaccine in January, with phase two proof of principal tests on its effectiveness as a treatment due by the end of this year. Estimates suggest that around 30 million people in the world carrying the Hepatitis B virus are highly infectious.

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annels

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Further expansion of cable TV audiences is expected in the wake of the long-awaited week of Nov. 11 Bell Canada, Canadian Broadcast Media, and the national cable company

or Thomas ds Hatch

The value of the company is £1.15m. The deal will last 10 years, with a 10% increase in the first five years, and is due to be completed in 1997.

It is understood that the deal will be completed in December, with the new company to be known as BT. The company will be based in the UK, with headquarters in London, and will have a turnover of £1.15m by 1998.

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DATA BANK	
FTSE 100	3998.1 + 15.2
FTSE 250	1262.5 + 3.3
FTSE 350	1982.7 + 5.6
SEAO VOLUME	659.7m shares, 36,618 bargains
Gifts Index	93.89 + 0.01

SHARE SPOTLIGHT	
COOKSON	210 K.D.J. E.M. A.M.A. A.S.O.

Cookson cool as downgradings cause song and dance

TAKING STOCK

Cookson, the industrial materials conglomerate, had the stock market on the hop. Earlier this week NatWest Securities, long-time bears of the shares, issued its unmeant cautionary bulletin, cutting its profit forecasts by £20m to £170m and by £10m to £200m.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett

quickly followed. It lowered its

expectations by £1m to £171m

and by £1m to £190m. The two

cuts, which seemed to relate to

the performance of Cookson's

electronic side, immediately

produced a clamour that the

company should put out a general trading statement.

NatWest, which met Cookson before adjusting its figures, had left the shares 70 lower at 237p with its downgrading.

Hoare Govett's intervention

clipped them another 10.5p to 226.5p, lowest for more than a year. Cookson, however, remained relatively robust if all, dismissing calls it should produce

a trading update. The Cookson camp said it was unaware of any Stock Exchange unease and maintained the Exchange was happy with the situation.

After Wednesday's interest rate surprise the market bucked down to, in football jargon, grinding out a result and Footsie ended 15.2 points higher at 3,979.1. However, emphasising in cold figures it was entirely a blue-chip display, the supporting indices gave ground.

Today's US payroll statistics, famous for spooking the market, kept the lid on enthusiasm.

Utilities again attracted support with the high-yielders said to be encouraging income funds. National Power and PowerGen led the charge. It was claimed buyers were front-running an expected UBS buy-out.

Today's NP gained 13.5p to 1,267.5p. Granstream, another obvious target, improved 27.5p to 327.5p. Others higher included Border and HTV.

Cowie, the transport group,

up 4.5p to 117.5p, on evidence it was continuing to increase its market share. Watson & Phillips, the convenience shops group, fell 13.5p to 392.5p. The shares have slipped 74p since Monday's cautious trading statement.

Communication shares were again active, ahead of today's relaxation of ownership rules. Yorkshire Tyre, Tescos' Tyco, where a move to the Crest computerised trading settlement system is near, was claimed buyers were front-running an expected UBS buy-out.

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business

Supermarket giant will be a financial minnow



Peter Rodgers

Sainsbury's will compete head on with other telephone banks on service and cost competitiveness as well as brand name. It is throwing its hat into a very crowded ring

tween financial services and supermarkets.

The Co-op has 5,000 stores of all sizes, including 1,800 supermarkets and 94 superstores. About 1,000 stores have some form of banking outlet, including 250 with counters operated by professional bank staff and many more with cash dispensers.

The in-store banks were set up in the 1970s because the Co-op wanted to expand but could not afford the enormous expense of building a national branch network.

It was not alone in doing this. Giro Bank, now owned by Alliance & Leicester, used the Post

Office, which was once its parent, in much the same way.

Harrods also has an in-store bank to tap its upmarket customers, while across the Atlantic, the Bank One group has long specialised successfully in supermarket banking.

Nowadays, the Co-op Bank is much less reliant on its in-store branches. It has become a full-scale telephone bank with 1.5 million customers, fighting in the same marketplace as First Direct, the Midland subsidiary that put telephone banking on the national map, and a host of similar services now being bolted on to other clearing banks.

That is exactly the battleground Sainsbury's has chosen. With Bank of Scotland, it is setting up a centralised telephone banking operation. The role of the stores appears to be to promote the telephone banking service. That means Sainsbury's will be competing head-on with other telephone banks on service and cost competitiveness, as well as brand name. It is throwing its hat into a very crowded ring.

The Co-op experience shows that the synergy between retailing and banking is decidedly patchy. No detailed figures are available, but the Co-op says the overlap between banking and retailing customers is not particularly large.

There are, however, good reasons for thinking that after the initial rapid expansion which is characteristic of start-ups, Sainsbury's may not find its new bank growing into another high street financial services giant, at least within the next decade. One is the Co-op experience. Another is that banking ties up substantial amounts of expensive capital, which under Bank of England rules must be topped up as the deposit base increases.

There is no point in fighting for market share in intensely competitive financial services if all it brings is a price war and an unprofitable business that rescue talks for the bank had been abandoned.

I remember John Ashburton saying, "It's just impossible to believe that 250 years of independence have come to an end literally over a weekend because of a rogue trader in Singapore." I was

standing on the 20th floor of Barings with John and Nicholas (Baring) and there was a beautiful sunset over the western part of the City and we just looked out into this great ball of fire and the sun sinking and it was rather an emotional moment."

Another bit I liked was

Charles McVeigh III of Salomon Brothers, reflecting on the inadequacy of the Bank of England's £10bn war chest

when it tried to stop speculators

driving sterling out of the

ERM three years ago. "It was

indeed, owning a bank could become positively embarrassing.

The customers may take

the same view. It is not a fore-

gone conclusion that they will

be prepared to trust a retailer

with their money, no matter

how good its name as a sup-

plier of food. They may prove

rather sceptical.

Indeed, owning a bank could

become positively embarrassing.

Sainsbury's may have 12 million customers. But among the established banks, Barclays, NatWest and Lloyds TSB already have 40 million and they are not going to let go of them easily.

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look to
mint

ice-market views, is being rounded out one day a week to Mifflin, the electrical engineer, where Stephen Littlefield is also a true believer. Ms Marshall, nicknamed the Ice Maiden because of her cool approach, was the architect of the gas price review. She spent five years with Littlefield before joining "bare Spottiswoode at Ogleys.

The Building Societies Association and the Council of Mortgage Lenders are finally getting divorced. It may seem odd that the same secretary under the able Adrian Coles has been able to represent the interests of mutual building societies and the banks that have competed with them in the mortgage markets. With societies like the Halifax and Alliance & Leicester converting to banks next year the situation has become too great, says Sue Anderson, until now a spokeswoman for both the BSA and CML.

Societies want their trade association to champion the merits of mutualism against those of pies, says Ms Anderson, and the two roles no longer mix.

She is going to the CML while Mr Coles goes to the BSA, where he will have to take a new press spokesman. Michael O'Loggan will take over as director general of the CML next year.

They will have to stay in the same building. The CML will have its own lockable office space," Ms Anderson insists, thus preventing an awkward confrontation.

And finally, Yorkshire Bank picks the trend. All the other tank-tight mutuals in the newspapers yesterday that they will be raising their interest rates following the Chancellor's quarter-point rise. Yorkshire, however, failed in the £1 that its base rate is reduced from 5.75 per cent to 5.00 per cent.

John Willcock

One Man and his trainer against the system

Racing

RICHARD EDMONDSON

For those who think Flat racing is for puddles, a dilettante sport in the sun for the overpaid, the real stuff begins in earnest at Wetherby tomorrow. One Man and a select field congregate for the Charlie Hall Chase and true National Hunt aficionados will be happy only if the temperament plummets and the sleek arrives horizontally.

As is the trend in the winter game, and in the early season especially, tomorrow's chase will be an intimate affair with few footprints left behind. The grey is likely to have just Scotton Banks, Barton Bank and Young Hustler for company.

It is the belief of Philip Arkwright, the clerk of the course at Cheltenham and Haydock, that ill-contested races, numerically at least, are the product of a dearth of good class competitors. This is not an opinion he should voice if he sees Gordon Richards, One Man's trainer, within earshot.

Most observers judge this as a failure of stamina, but following a post-mortem of seven months, Richards fails to agree with them. "We still can't put a

season, but what's the point of putting him in it? He'd go up a stone just for running.

"The grey is trained with a level weight and end up putting lead on his horse. This has been the problem all through my training life, and any good trainer, a man who knows about horses, doesn't go on taking on good horses at level weights. You hear these other people talking poppycock, but they aren't trainers. You've got to do the best for your horse or you get whipped."

One Man himself was whipped on his final outing of last season in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, his only defeat of the campaign. The gelding travelled smoothly to the third last obstacle that day but then reacted as if someone had pulled the plug out. He negotiated the last like a schoolboy scrambling over the orchard wall.

Most observers judge this as a failure of stamina, but following a post-mortem of seven months, Richards fails to agree with them. "We still can't put a

season on what happened, it's still a mystery, but I wouldn't agree that he didn't stay," he said. "If he'd have gone to the last and not stayed up the hill I might have believed it, but he's won at three and a quarter miles round Newbury [in the Hennessy Gold Cup of 1994]. It was very disappointing, but he's still rated the top horse [on an official mark of 175, with the Gold Cup winner Imperial Call]."

After tomorrow's venture, One Man is scheduled to follow a steady path in the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock and Kempton's King George VI Chase, both of which he won with some disdain last year. Then the eight-year-old will reacquaint himself with Cheltenham in January before a return to Prestbury Park for the Blue Riband.

His trainer still thinks hugely of One Man and when he describes the grey he might be looking in a mirror. "He's in good order at the moment," Richards said. "He's the same nice horse we saw last year, strong and round and cosy."



Godolphin's Easy Option (left) fails to overhaul Astrac at Nottingham yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

Deductions may be cut

Betting-shop punters could be in line for a large incentive to bet as bookmakers seek to offset the damage caused by the National Lottery. Bookmakers' representatives yesterday pledged to cut off-course deductions from punters' bets to 7.5% from the current rate of 9.5% if the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, reduces the rate of general betting duty by 1.25% in the Budget on 26 November. A rate of 7.5% would be the lowest for 25 years when betting-shop punters were taxed at just 6%.

"A further 1.25% reduction in the duty needed to bring the industry back into line with the pre-1994 Lottery position," the committee's vice chairman, John Brown, said. "Should the Chancellor agree to this then we would move immediately to translate that into a 1.5% reduction in the betting tax."

And finally, Yorkshire Bank picks the trend. All the other tank-tight mutuals in the newspapers yesterday that they will be raising their interest rates following the Chancellor's quarter-point rise. Yorkshire, however, failed in the £1 that its base rate is reduced from 5.75 per cent to 5.00 per cent.

John Willcock

245 NEILSON COBBOLD CONDITIONALS HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,250 2m 24f

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sport

Goss short on trappings but long on dedication

The goodbyes have been said and there will be no family present to bid farewell to Pete Goss at Les Sables d'Olonne in France on Sunday when he starts a single-handed, non-stop round-the-world yacht race.

His 50-foot yacht *Aqua Quorum*, sunny yellow in colour, is among the poor relations when compared with some of the lavishly funded French campaigns. But this does not deter the man from Cornwall.

Last week Goss had a holiday with wife, Tracey, sons Alex, 7, and Elliot, 2, and daughter Olivia, 5. "It was great, the first time off in a long time," he said. "But they have now gone

home. I have said my goodbyes. I am now focusing on the race."

The race is the third Vendée Globe and the holiday was taken in the south Brittany countryside around Les Sables d'Olonne, where the 16 competitors are lined up. Fifteen of the boats are 60-footers, with just Goss in a shorter boat.

Budget was the main reason for building something smaller but, as befits the fighting spirit of Goss, adversity is shrugged aside and even turned into an advantage. The design by Adrian Thompson is, he believes, still capable of giving the hi-tech and enormously experienced French a run for their money.

Stuart Alexander in Les Sables d'Olonne at the beginning of an epic voyage

The theory runs that because the boat is shorter and built lighter, it takes less sail to handle and power it. This, combined with a "swinging" keel to right the boat, no reliance on water ballast and a combination of twin rudders and dagger boards, should boost the yacht's speed.

The French are equally convinced that, except in surfing conditions, their longer boats will always have a speed edge despite being heavier and more technically vulnerable.

Goss disagrees. The 34-year-old ex-Marine has kept largely to himself, not least because he could not afford the sort of team

support that his competitors have had at their disposal. Even his publicity effort has had to be curtailed as the cash ran out.

But Goss has had family support in the shape of a mother and father who individually assembled all the meals he would need for 120 days – the single-handed around-the-world record is 109 days, set by Titouan Lamazou in 1989/90 – and then trotted along to the local butcher to use his vacuum packer.

The overraft has been reduced to £25,000 with the last

minute injection of £25,000 by 3M. "That stopped me from going bust," he admitted. Most people would be pretty frazzled at the thought. He manages to sound relaxed, as if everyone with a wife, three children, a mortgage and no income would do and say the same.

But Goss is not the same. His commitment to the round-the-world solo race is unquestioned, and he likes nothing more than to steer the conversation back around to his "brilliant little

boat". "I'll just get out there and work as hard as I can," he said. "There is no thought of doubting him."

It is not as though he has not been round the world before. In 1992 he was skipper of one of the British Steel boats so he knows the routine from that, although this time the race is tougher, the risks greater, and the technical skills required at a higher level.

Goss sees the race not just as a battle between himself and the worst that the Southern Ocean gales, ice and storms can throw at him, but as a war which has many battles.

"No one knows what fate will



Goss: Fighting spirit

second British boat in the Vendée Globe, was yesterday making last-ditch efforts to secure a sponsorship deal with Exide which he thought had been agreed. Bullimore will start the race regardless.

Jordan's Bulls still hold all the aces

Richard Taylor
previews the 50th NBA season that tips off today

The game goes hyperactive today, along with a few investment brokers and bank managers, when the jump-shooting, shot-blocking, slam-dunking megabuck National Basketball Association tips off for its 50th season.

On 1 November 1946 post-war America launched a new sporting league, the Basketball Association of America, when the Toronto Huskies beat the New York Knickerbockers. Tommy Barnes stole the game 68-66 for the Knicks with two free throws.

The Knicks are still here, opening the schedule today at Toronto again, but against the second-year franchise Raptors. Tommy Barnes would have marvelled at today's NBA: how one of his peers is bumptious with a four-year \$46m (£29m) contract; and how another is earning \$121m (£76m) over seven years but cannot shoot free throws to save his life. It is as well that the game 50 years ago did not depend on Shaquille O'Neal standing on the line.

The incredible salaries are made possible by the insatiable demand for licensed products and merchandise, fed by NBA games and magazine programmes beamed to 180 countries by satellite and terrestrial TV stations.

The world market in replica basketballs and other products is worth \$3,000m (£1900m) to the NBA, with 10 per cent of that from Europe, where they have offices in Geneva, Paris and London, including \$60m (£37.75m) from the UK. Sky TV and Channel 4 both broadcast NBA games and magazine programmes this season.

The demand for NBA products is almost matched by the players' demands for dollars. Indiana's Reggie Miller, an Olympic gold medal-winner in the summer with the USA's "Dream Team", was holding out for a five-year deal with the Pacers, but settled for \$9m (£5.7m) a season over four years. "I wanted people to understand Reggie Miller is not a greedy person," he said.

O'Neal, at 7ft 4in, has cut and run from the Orlando Magic after his 26 points and 12 rebounds per game failed to turn the young franchise into champions. The once all-powerful Los Angeles Lakers are close enough to Hollywood for O'Neal's rap and movie careers, but will examine his credentials to be considered alongside the true greats in the purple and gold, Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and James Worthy.

If the old Lakers and their legends are the benchmark for O'Neal, the rest of the League still have to measure up to the black and red of the Chicago Bulls. The Bulls are still Michael Jordan's team, but to stop Chicago winning the title for the fifth time in seven years, opponents will have to beat Dennis Rodman. Alongside Jordan and Scottie Pippen, he gives Chicago the most potent triple threat in the League.

The extraordinary Rodman, at only 6ft 10in arguably the greatest rebounder in NBA history, dyed his hair a different colour each game and is a cross dresser who sets out to shock and thrill on and off the court. He should have won the Most Valuable Player at last season's finals, but it predictably went to Jordan.

The Bulls beat Seattle 4-2 and the challenge from the west may have to come from the Sonics again. The Houston Rockets, champions in '94 and '95 during Jordan's temporary retirement, signed Charles Barkley from Phoenix but decimated their line-up to get him by allowing Robert Horry, Chuck Brown, Mark Bryant and Sam Cassell to make the return trip to the Suns. Unless, of course, further down the west coast, the challenge comes from the Lakers if "Shaq" starts repaying some of that massive investment.

Manchester taking Wembley to the wire

Mike Rowbottom
on the fight for the site of the new National Stadium

Manchester came out fighting yesterday as it submitted its final proposals for building the new National Stadium.

Despite last week's endorsement of the rival Wembley bid by the football, athletics and rugby league authorities, Manchester – which was awarded the 2002 Commonwealth Games – maintained it was the best option for the country at large. "They think it's all over," reads the latest Manchester slogan. "It's not yet."

The city, which failed in bids for the 1996 and 2000 Olympics, has modified its original stadium design, adding a retractable roof and moveable seats to an all-seater 80,000-edifice it hopes will be the centrepiece of the proposed National Academy of Sport. Yesterday was the deadline for bids to host the Academy, and Manchester is among the two dozen or so contenders who also include Birmingham, Bath, Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield and the London boroughs of Redbridge and Greenwich.

A spokeswoman for the newly formed United Kingdom Sports Council, which will decide on the location of the Academy, denied yesterday that the decision would necessarily be linked with the destination of the National Stadium.

Launching Manchester's latest proposals, Graham Stringer – the councillor who spearheaded the city's successful bid for the 2002 Commonwealth Games – said: "The stadium that will be at the focus of the world's attention in 2002 must be the best in the country – it's unthinkable that it isn't."

"And remember, the national stadium in Manchester will not be profit-governed. Any monies generated will be ploughed back into sport, unlike Wembley, which is a Plc."

Lee Shostak, a New York-based planner, insisted that

An artist's impression of the proposed 80,000-seat complex, complete with retractable roof and moveable seats which Manchester hopes will become the next National Stadium

Manchester's was a better option than Wembley in all the relevant criteria, from the use of lottery money – around £122m is estimated to be required from the Sports Council – through to stadium design.

Trippier also contested London's claim that only capital cities can succeed in attracting major sporting events. Adrian Moorhouse, the former Olympic swimming champion, added: "Households in the Northwest spend 45 per cent more on watching sport than anywhere else in the UK."

they took the view of their members into account. The most famous football and rugby league clubs in the world are in this region and it also has the largest number of athletic clubs."

Trippier also contested London's claim that only capital cities can succeed in attracting major sporting events. He added: "Look at the examples of Atlanta and Sydney with regard to the

Olympics. Manchester has already shown that it can attract events like the World Cycling Championships, the World Table Tennis Championships and the Commonwealth Games."

The Sports Council plans to make its final decision in December. "At the moment the competition we are in for is for the National Stadium," said Penny Boothman of the City council. "We are not at the stage of saying this is what we want if we don't get the decision."

Wembley, meanwhile, has announced the trustees who will submit the request for Na-

tional Lottery funds. The six nominated representatives include the TV mogul Greg Dyke.

Up to £100m of National Lottery money is also available for the National Academy of Sport, which will have a central site linked to regional centres.

Accepting bids to run the Academy, the Sports Minister, Iain Sproat, declared: "This is

a real step forward for our elite athletes."

The Department of National Heritage and the new UK Sports Council will draw up a shortlist, with the help of specialist advice, and hope to announce a decision by the end of January. Regional centres will be named by September with a view to having the whole structure up and running by the year 2000.

Shah saves face for England A

Cricket

England A 155-9 v NSW XI

Owais Shah hit a composed 76 to save England A from a disastrous start to their four-day tour match with a New South Wales XI in Tamworth yesterday.

Shah, the 18-year-old schoolboy from Middlesbrough, hit 11 fours as England A slumped to 155 for 9 before a torrential hail-storm halted play after 69.2 overs. Stuart MacGill, rated by many as the next best Australian leg-spinner behind Shane Warne, took 4 for 43 while the left-arm spinner Dave Freedman claimed 2 for 21 to leave Shah with the burden of attempting to rescue the tourists.

"I will do my best to try and save them but it's their decision and they have to stay because

they want to," said Moores, who joined Sussex in 1985.

Several Sussex players were said to be unhappy with Wells' style of leadership and Moores admitted the club have become "frustrated" because of a lack of success. Wells, 35, sacked after five years in charge, is unlikely to see out the remaining two years of his contract.

Derbyshire have issued a "hands off" warning to clubs interested in their batsman Chris Adams. The 26-year-old had his best season in 1996, scoring 1,742 runs, and was the subject of an approach by Sussex. The Derbyshire chairman, Mike Horton, said: "Sussex asked for permission to approach Chris in the belief he was out of contract. They were told his contract has

two years to run. Other counties

were rumoured to be interested as I sent a fax to all 17, expressing concern about the number of clubs believed to be approaching Chris."

LEEDS MARATHON: A week later

ENGLAND A – First Innings

M A Butcher to MacGill 1

A McLean to Alley 1

O A Shah to Maclean 1

C White to Freeman 1

T W Hogg to Maclean 1

A J Hall to Freeman 1

G Chapple to Maclean 1

D W Studd to Hall 1

E Barnes (22) to Hall 1

Yates (9) to Hall 1

155-9 2nd innings

7-143 8-152 9-152

Scoring: May 10-3-21-2; Clark 7-0-28-0;

MacGill 10-2-18-2; Freedman 10-2-18-2;

MacLennan 10-2-18-2; Shah 10-2-18-2;

Adams 10-2-18-2; Horton 10-2-18-2;

Freight 10-2-18-2; Hogg 10-2-18-2;

White 10-2-18-2; Barnes 10-2-18-2;

Chapple 10-2-18-2; Studd 10-2-18-2;

Yates 10-2-18-2; Hall 10-2-18-2;

Maclean 10-2-18-2; Hogg 10-2-18-2;

White 10-2-18-2; Barnes 10-2-18-2;

Chapple 10-2-18-2; Studd 10-2-18-2;</

Rangers must solve conundrum

Football

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Eleven days that turned the Reds blue

20 OCT

23 OCT

26 OCT

30 OCT

Ferguson fights to win confidence game

The record can intimidate foreign teams but it can be intimidating for myself. I do not want to be the manager who loses it. At some point it is going to happen but I hope it is long after I have gone to the great penalty box in the sky and am in peace.

Alex Ferguson speaking in September about Manchester United's unbeaten home record in European competition.

Glenn Moore on the way ahead for Manchester United after a bad 10 days

Manchester City fans will have enjoyed it most — Maine Road is where the blue-and-yellow shirts of Fenerbahce will soon be sported—but they are not the biggest domestic beneficiaries of Manchester United's unexpected Champions' League defeat on Wednesday night.

Liverpool, Newcastle, Arsenal and any other side with pretensions to United's Premiership crown have more reason to be grateful to the Turkish champions. For weeks it has seemed that United have been putting their domestic campaign on the back burner while they concentrate on Europe. Wednesday was supposed to be the night they tied up that adventure until the quarter-finals in Munch and redirected their attention to the English game.

Instead, they face Chelsea tomorrow, and Arsenal a week later, knowing they have Juventus looming on 20 November. Even a United victory would secure qualification only if Fenerbahce fail to defeat Rapid Vienna at home the same night. United's European fate is thus unlikely to be settled until 6 December, when they travel to Vienna and the Turin to Turin.

"We are still in a better position than Fenerbahce," Alex Ferguson said yesterday. The 1-0 defeat was United's first at home in Europe in 40 years and 57 matches, but the United manager added: "Losing the record was more important than losing the record."

"Some poor soul was going to lose it eventually, it happened to be me. We're not delighted to lose it, but in a way it is a relief. There were times when the team were worrying more about losing the record than winning matches. Now it is out of the way."

Tomorrow's match against Chelsea has assumed extra importance, however, in the wake of United's loss of confidence. It may seem a daft suggestion but, at present, United might even struggle to beat their First Division neighbours — not City, but Oldham Athletic. Oldham may still be bottom of the First



Home alone: Alex Ferguson is left with a lot to think about at Old Trafford on Wednesday night

Division, but they have started winning. United are the champions and are bulging with talent and medals, yet they have been losing—and losing badly. As Jordi Cruyff admitted on Wednesday night: "When you've been losing like we have, it eats away at you."

Cruyff is only 22 yet he is older than six of the 14 United players who were involved on Wednesday. United's youthful face, so refreshing, so energising in victory, is a problem in defeat. Confidence is fragile enough in many senior footballers; young men who have little experience of defeat are even more vulnerable and few at United are experienced at losing.

United's need for a centre-

forward is even more pressing than for a centre-half. Eric Cantona again appeared unhappy playing with his back to goal on Wednesday, but Ferguson's options are limited.

Ole Gunnar Solskjær has, understandably, looked jaded recently; Paul Scholes is no more a leader of the line than Cantona, and Andy Cole is injured. Perhaps Jordi Cruyff could have played there, though he does not appear a natural centre-forward either. How United missed an Alan Shearer or a Lee Ferdinand.

While he awaits new blood

Ferguson can shuffle the pack.

Again, options are limited. Phil Neville is back, but Pallister is

out and Ryan Giggs will not be fit until the Arsenal game at the earliest. Roy Keane will miss that match through suspension after his dismissal at The Dell.

One other thing Ferguson could do—but will not—is change the captaincy. Cantona has not proved a success in the role. He may have presence, but he is not the inspiration Steve Bruce was, especially when he is struggling with his own game.

Yet who else is there? Most of the team are too young or too new. Peter Schmeichel is a possibility, but it is difficult to lead a team from in goal; Denis Irwin is too quiet; David May is unsure of his place. Pal-

ler is the best candidate, but how often will he be fit?

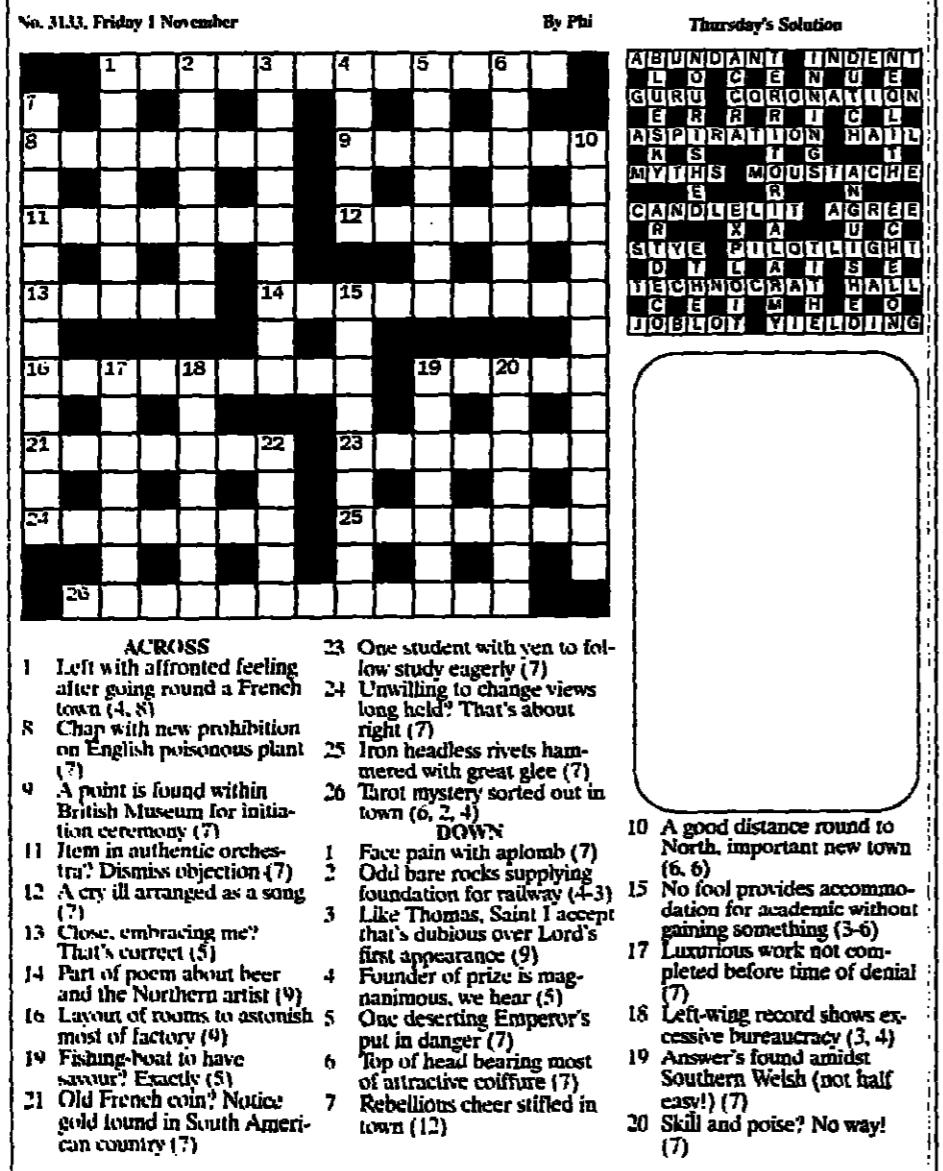
It all makes for a difficult time for Ferguson, but he has come through far worse in his decade at the club. Think of 1990, when his job appeared on the line.

Think of last season, when Paul Ince, Andrei Kanchelskis and Mark Hughes had left. United's form is now more than a blip, but it is not yet a crisis. Nor is it likely to become one.

A leading bookmaker yesterday halved its odds from 6-1 to 3-1 that Ferguson will be United's manager on the final day of the season. William Hill also quoted United at 100-1 to be relegated.

More football, page 31

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Pallister has knee operation

Manchester United's black October came to an end yesterday but not before the club had suffered one last blow, writes Glenn Moore. Gary Pallister went into hospital to have his troublesome knee examined and discovered he needed a cartilage operation.

It was done immediately us-

ing keyhole surgery but the de-

fender will be out for at least a month. He was immediately pulled out of the England

squad for next Saturday's

match in Georgia which is to be announced today. Tony Adams, the Arsenal defender who has just come back from a knee operation himself, is thus expected to be recalled.

United also withdrew Ryan Giggs from the Welsh squad to play the Netherlands next weekend. Wales are already without Mark Hughes who is suspended. Giggs has been suffering with a calf injury for several weeks and has only just resumed training.

United hope to have Giggs

back for the visit of Arsenal on 16 November. The target for Pallister is the Champions League game away to Rapid Vienna on December 4.

"I have to keep my fingers crossed that nothing happens to Tony Adams or David May before the Juventus game," said Ferguson yesterday, touching wood as he did so. "It is a risk but it would have been a bigger risk to have tried to patch up Pally. He might have broken down in the match itself."

Brown's fitness gamble

The Scotland manager, Craig Brown, yesterday recalled Duncan Ferguson and Colin Hendry in a 23-man squad for the Group Four qualifier against Sweden at Ibrox on Sunday 10 November. Both players missed the trip to Latvia and Estonia because of operations, but Brown is prepared to gamble on their fitness. He also named the Rangers goalkeeper Andy Goram, who has missed his club's last six matches.

"Having Ferguson available is a boost, as it comes when we could be without other important players," Brown said. "I've been in touch with Everton, and the word is that Duncan is fit and flying and desperate to play again."

The Rangers trio of Alan McLaren, Stuart McCall and

Gordon Durie are all unfit and, as expected, Goram misses out, then Jim Leighton will step in again. Brown has kept faith with his strikers: Billy Dodds (Aberdeen), Darren Jackson (Hibernian) and John McGinn (Bolton), who have shown good club form.

Celtic have sold the former Swansea City and Falkirk defender John Hughes to Hibernian for £300,000. The 32-year-old makes his debut for Hibs at Kilmarnock tonight.

Southampton have taken the former England goalkeeper Chris Woods on loan for four months from the Denver-based Major League Soccer team, Colorado Rapids. The 36-year-old will act as cover for Dave Beasant at the Dell.

The French sports newspaper, *L'Equipe*, has reported that Blackburn Rovers have made an offer for Paris St-Germain's Panamanian international striker, Julio Cesar Delvaldes.

Blackburn have been linked with a string of top strikers since Alan Shearer's £15m departure to Newcastle, including Brazil's Bebeto and Germany's Oliver Bierhoff and Jürgen Klinsmann, but it is unlikely any deal will be finalised until a new manager has been installed at Ewood Park.

Tony Yeo has been given the all-clear to resume light training with Leeds next week. The Ghanaian international has been out of action for seven months with damaged knee ligaments. "It's good news and it's a bit earlier than we expected," George Graham, the Leeds manager, said.

SCOTLAND SQUAD (World Cup Group Four) 1. Steve Bruce (Sheffield United). 2. Alan Shearer (Newcastle). 3. Gordon Durie (Aberdeen). 4. Darren Jackson (Hibernian). 5. John McGinn (Bolton). 6. Billy Dodds (Aberdeen). 7. Tony Adams (Arsenal). 8. Jim Leighton (Celtic). 9. Alan McLaren (Rangers). 10. Colin Hendry (Everton). 11. Tony Cascarino (Sheffield United). 12. John Hartson (Hibernian). 13. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 14. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 15. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 16. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 17. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 18. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 19. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 20. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 21. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 22. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 23. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 24. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 25. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 26. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 27. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 28. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 29. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 30. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 31. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 32. Paul Hartley (Aberdeen). 33. 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